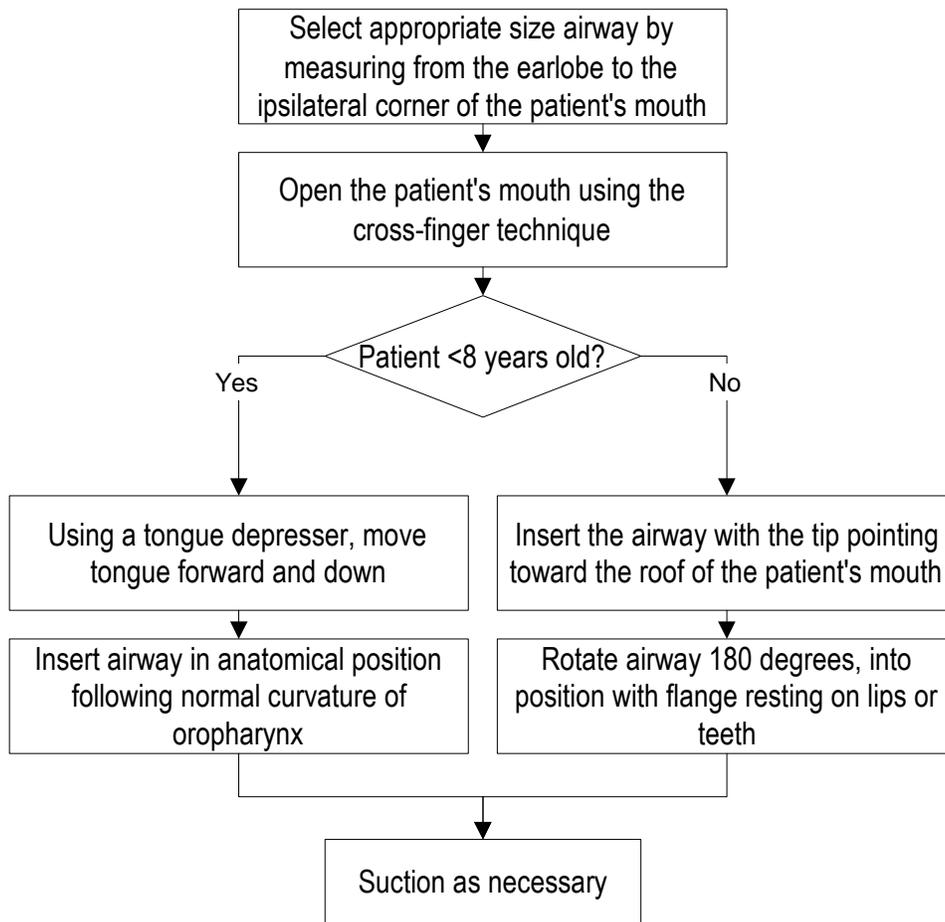


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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
PRACTICAL SKILL
ORAL AIRWAY INSERTION**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:
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Purpose: To maintain a patent airway by holding the tongue off the posterior pharynx		Indications: Unconscious patients without a gag reflex	
Advantages: Maintains a patent airway Easy to use with minimal training necessary Prevents the patient from biting down on objects in the mouth (e.g. endotracheal tube)	Disadvantages: Does not prevent aspiration May stimulate gag reflex	Complications: Oral trauma Vomiting with possible aspiration	Contraindications: Any patient with an intact gag reflex



NOTES:

- A tongue blade may be used to insert the airway in anatomical position for the adult patient.
- Use the jaw lift or jaw thrust without head tilt for the patient with a possible cervical spine injury.