

Neonatal Algorithm for Deteriorating Ventilated Baby (DOPE)

Displacement:

- Check etCO₂ value/waveform
- Look at tube position; does it look displaced?
- Auscultate the chest and epigastrium
- Connect T-piece to ET tube to give breaths and assess for improvement. If baby responds ET tube displacement can be ruled out
- If ET tube is displaced – remove immediately and give breaths using T-piece/self-inflating bag and mask
- Consider reintubation or other respiratory support



Obstruction:

- Suction ET tube and assess for improvement



Pneumothorax:

- Apply cold light to both sides of the chest (reduce environment light)
- If chest transilluminates prepare for emergency needle thoracocentesis
- Consider urgent chest Xray and prepare for chest drain insertion



Equipment:

- Consider failure of equipment starting from the oxygen cylinder/point straight through to the ET tube and back again
- Consider changing circuit and/or ventilator



Document and debrief parents and the team