DO NOT FORGET · THE SHORT CHECKLIST

Difficult airway — plan A to D

Anticipated and unanticipated difficulty, including cannot intubate cannot oxygenate

EM Orbit

Patient reference	Date	Time	Completed by

The 3 steps that must not be missed

- [ ] ANTICIPATE

Anticipated difficult airway and time allows → awake technique, or double set-up with front-of-neck kit open and a second operator

Call anaesthesia / ENT before starting.

- [ ] PLAN A — LARYNGOSCOPY

Maximum 3 attempts (a 4th only by a more experienced operator); change something between attempts

Blade, position, operator, bougie, video.

- [ ] PLAN D — CANNOT INTUBATE, CANNOT OXYGENATE

DECLARE CICO aloud. Scalpel–bougie–tube cricothyroidotomy: extend the neck, laryngeal handshake, transverse stab through the cricothyroid membrane, bougie, size 6.0 cuffed tube

Do not delay for a further SGA or laryngoscopy attempt. Confirm with capnography.

The short list: an aid to memory, not the whole procedure. The full checklist is at the QR code. It does not replace your local protocol or your clinical judgement. Source: DAS 2015 · Vortex approach.