

# CRITICAL AIRWAY DEFINITION

- Any patient whose airway:
  - Is unable to be ventilated due to anatomic or other abnormalities if the artificial airway is dislodged;
  - has a new tracheostomy, or one less than 7 days in place, that has not had his/her first change by the Otolaryngology (ENT) or General Surgery Services.
  - Has a tracheostomy and cannot be bag-valve mask ventilated or intubated;
  - Has airway stenosis per ENT of  $\geq$  grade III
  - Has a false tract, stoma granulation tissue that is obstructive, or another complication identified by caregivers;
  - Has a post-surgical stent in place

# **DIFFICULT AIRWAY DEFINITION:**

- Any patient with:
  - known difficulty with intubation in the past or anticipated challenges in securing a stable airway.
  - Craniofacial, spinal or thoracic abnormalities or disease specific anatomic abnormalities that may create difficulty with intubation either by limiting patient positioning or limiting insertion of the airway.
  - Severe scoliosis, unstable C-spine or limited head or neck flexion, receding mandible, micrognathia, large tongue, or significant obesity