

TRACH CARE & SUCTIONING

Preprocedure

- Verify orders
- Gather supplies
- Perform hand hygiene
- Identify patient with 2 patient identifiers (or per policy)
- Explain procedure to patient
- Raise bed to a comfortable working height



Trach Suctioning

- Supplies
 - Suction catheter kit
 - Catheter
 - Size of trach x 2 - 2
 - i.e. size 6 trach → 10fr catheter
 - Sterile gloves
 - Disposable water container
 - Small bottle of sterile water
- Hyperoxygenate patient if appropriate
- Recommend 45 degrees HOB to promote effective airway clearance
- Suction the patient
 - Control the suction using the control port with your nondominant hand
 - Insert the suction catheter with your nondominant hand, being careful not to let the suction catheter touch anywhere other than the inside of the trach.
- Insert 4-6 inches or until the patient coughs
 - Insert WITHOUT suctioning
 - If the patient coughs, remove 1 cm before initiating suction
- Apply intermittent suction (by covering and uncovering port) with the thumb of your non-dominant hand and gently rotate the catheter as you remove it
- Replace oxygen mask to give supplemental oxygen as necessary
- Do not exceed 10 seconds per pass!*



TRACH CARE & SUCTIONING

Trach Care

- Assess stoma for skin breakdown or signs of infection
- Open the supplies onto the sterile field using sterile technique
- Remove inner cannula with non-dominant hand (with clean gloves)
 - If not disposable, place on a towel or other area besides the sterile field
- Carefully remove the existing dressing and discard then remove gloves & perform hand hygiene
- Apply sterile gloves and prep trach tray
- Use cotton-tipped applicators and pipe cleaners to clean secretions from the outside flange of the tracheostomy – *do not insert into the stoma*

Postprocedure

Discard sharps in the sharps container
Discard all used supplies in the appropriate waste container
Remove and dispose of gloves
Perform hand hygiene
Return bed to low & locked position
Ensure patient is comfortable