

# Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

## II-19 DEEP TRACHEAL SUCTIONING OF THE INTUBATED PATIENT

1. Policy:
  - 1.1. To establish guidelines for the performance by prehospital personnel of deep tracheal suctioning of the intubated patient.
  
2. Equipment:
  - 2.1. Disposable gloves, sterile gloves, and full face protection.
  - 2.2. Oxygen.
  - 2.3. Sterile water or sterile saline.
  - 2.4. Bag valve mask.
  - 2.5. Suction catheters of various sizes depending on the size of the ET tube:
    - 2.5.1. Sizes 10, 12, 14, 16 will accommodate most pediatric and adult patient.
  - 2.6. Properly operating suction unit.
  
3. Procedure:
  - 3.1. Put on gloves and full face protection.
  - 3.2. Pre oxygenate patient.
  - 3.3. Turn suction on and attach suction catheter to suction unit without removing catheter from package.
  - 3.4. Open bottle of sterile water or sterile saline.
  - 3.5. Put sterile glove on one hand and with the sterile gloved hand insert catheter through ET tube as far as it will go with suction off.
  - 3.6. Begin withdrawing catheter using rotary motion and intermittent suction.
  - 3.7. Clear suction catheter and suction tubing by inserting catheter into sterile water or sterile saline with suction in.
  - 3.8. Oxygenate patient again.
  - 3.9. Repeat procedure once if necessary:
    - 3.9.1. Suctioning more than twice at one time may induce hypoxia.