

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

II-23 CARE OF THE PATIENT WITH TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE

Policy:

- To establish guidelines for the prehospital management of the patient with a tracheostomy tube. Care actions may include removal of dried secretions from the stoma and surrounding skin and suctioning through the tracheostomy.

Equipment needed:

- Disposable gloves full face protection and any other PPE deemed necessary
- Oxygen
- Sterile water or sterile saline
- Sterile 4X4's
- Tracheostomy mask
- Suction catheters of various sizes depending on the size of the tracheostomy tube
 - Sizes 10, 12, 14, 16 will accommodate most pediatric and adult patient
- Properly operating suction unit

Suctioning through the tracheostomy procedure:

- Don PPE
- Pre oxygenate patient
- Turn suction on and attach suction catheter to suction unit without removing catheter from package
- Open bottle of sterile water or sterile saline
- Insert catheter through ET tube as far as it will go with suction off
- Begin withdrawing catheter using rotary motion and intermittent suction
- Clear suction catheter and suction tubing by inserting catheter into sterile water or sterile saline with suction in
- Oxygenate patient again
- Repeat procedure once if necessary:
 - Suctioning more than twice at one time may induce hypoxia

Removal of dried secretions from tracheostomy procedure:

- Don PPE
- Suction patient as above if necessary
- Monitor patient for need for removal of dried secretions from tracheostomy:
 - Thick mucous build up in and around the tracheostomy tube may form a crust and/or a mucous plug
- Remove soiled dressings if necessary:
 - If soiled dressings are removed, change gloves prior to applying clean dressings
- Use sterile water or sterile saline soaked 4X4's to cleanse around stoma site
- Do not remove ties used to secure tracheostomy tube in place

Documentation:

- Who attempted/performed task
- PPE and equipment used
- Indications for procedure
- Any noted complications or undesired side effects
- Were desired therapeutic effects attained?

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