

# Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

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

### Policy:

- To establish guidelines for the performance by prehospital personnel of deep tracheal suctioning of the intubated patient

### Equipment:

- Disposable gloves, full face protection and any additional PPE deemed necessary
- Oxygen
- Sterile water or sterile saline
- Bag valve mask
- Suction catheters of various sizes depending on the size of the ET tube:
  - Sizes 10, 12, 14, 16 catheters will accommodate most pediatric and adult patient
- Properly operating suction unit

### 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 suction 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 on
- Oxygenate patient again
- Repeat procedure once if necessary:
  - Suctioning more than twice at one time may induce hypoxia