

Tracheostomy Care – Suctioning-inline

Suction your child's tracheostomy tube as needed. This keeps the tube clear of mucus that can block or plug the tracheostomy.

Use clean techniques as follows using a size _____ suction catheter.

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds
2. Check the measured suction depth for your child's tracheostomy tube
3. Make sure the suction catheter is attached to the tracheostomy tube and the other end to the suction machine tubing
4. Turn on the suction machine
5. Hold the tracheostomy tube with one hand, with the other hand Insert the catheter to measured suction depth
6. Press and hold button to start suction
7. Slowly start to pull back on catheter, taking no longer than 5 seconds
8. Repeat suctioning of your child's tracheostomy (steps 7-9) as needed – Allow 30 seconds for your child to catch his/her breath between suctioning
9. Turn off the suction machine
10. Note any changes in color, thickness, how much mucus or smell of the mucus
11. Rinse the catheter by putting a saline bullet in the suction port, press and hold button, squeeze saline until empty
12. Empty and clean the collection cannister. on the suction machine as instructed

Safety Precautions:

- Do not insert the suction catheter further than the measured suction depth
- Take only 5 seconds each time you suction. Wait 30 seconds before suctioning again to allow your child to catch their breath
- If the suction catheter cannot be inserted to the suction depth specified, change out your child's tracheostomy tube
- Replace the suction catheter as needed when it becomes dirty

If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's tracheostomy, call your doctor at: _____

Call your emergency number (911) if your child has difficulty breathing that does not improve with suctioning or changing the tube.