

TRACHEOSTOMY

Cannula Change

Material - Required for tracheostomy cannula change

- One tracheostomy tube same size as in current use
- Smaller size tracheostomy tube
- Tracheostomy ties (Velcro or twill tape)
- Water based lubricant
- Scissors
- Hemostats (or blunt tipped tweezers)
- Suction supplies
- Mask & manual resuscitator connected to 100% oxygen
- Gauzes or tissues
- Sterile gloves

Procedure – Tracheostomy cannula change

○ When?

- Q MONTH, by the RT
- Following resolution of any upper or lower respiratory tract infection to avoid airway reinfection or granulomas
- Every time the tracheostomy tube cannula appears partially obstructed with secretions to avoid tracheostomy tube occlusion

○ How?

1. Requires **2 trained persons** for routine changes with an **RT present**
2. Keep patient **NPO 3 hours prior** to the tracheostomy tube change to minimize the risk of aspiration
3. **Wash and dry hands**
4. Keep the tracheostomy tube cannula sterile
5. **Prepare ties & tie to flanges** of the new tracheostomy tube
 - *For Velcro ties, tie only one side of the tracheostomy tube*
 - *For twill tape ties, attach ties to both flanges prior to reinserting the tracheostomy tube*
6. **Suction** patient as per protocol
7. **Position** the patient supine, **place a small roll** under his/her shoulders
8. 1st person **removes the ties** while holding the tracheostomy in place
9. 2nd person put on **sterile gloves**
10. 2nd person **moistens the tip** of the tracheostomy tube with lubricant holding the obturator in place with thumb
11. **Preoxygenate** the child with 100% oxygen
12. **On exhalation**, 1st person **removes** the tracheostomy tube following the natural curve of the tube
13. 2nd person **inserts immediately** the tracheostomy tube **sideway** in the stoma to visualize adequately the tracheostoma **then turns** the tracheostomy tube gently, once in the stoma, in alignment with the trachea & continues the insertion of the tracheostomy tube in a smooth curving motion, directing the tip of the tracheostomy tube toward the back of the neck. **Never force** the tracheostomy tube into the stoma to avoid tracheal wall injuries
14. **Remove the obturator**, holding the tracheostomy tube securely in the tracheostoma

15. To **confirm that the tracheostomy tube is in place**, place your hand in front of the tracheostomy tube hub and feel for air movement or verify for secretions coming out of the tracheostomy tube
16. Insert a suction catheter & **suction**. The suction catheter should pass easily beyond the tracheostomy tube without resistance
17. **Remove shoulder roll** to relieve the hyperextension of the neck before tying the tracheostomy ties to ensure a correct fit
18. **Tie** the tracheostomy ties, allowing room for only one finger between neck & the ties
19. Perform a respiratory **assessment**
20. **Document** procedure & patient's tolerance in the chart