ABOUT MY TRACH

Date: _________________________
Trach Brand: ____________________
Trach Size: _______  Length: _______
  ○ NEO   ○ Peds   ○ Adult
  ○ Uncuffed   ○ Cuffed
Cuff Content: ___________ mls air/water
Small Size: ______________________
Suction Catheter Size: ______________
Suction Depth: _____________________
Can I be bagged or intubated from above?
  ○ Yes   ○ No
Comment: _________________________
Appropriate ETT Size: ______________

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT
KEEP THESE MATERIALS ON HAND

- Same size and length trach tube with ties already in place
- One size smaller trach tube with ties already in place
- One size smaller ET tube
- Suction machine (fully charged)
- Suction catheters
- Self-inflating bag with face mask and adapters, if indicated
- Normal saline
- Extra trach ties
- Scissors
- Hemostats
- Water-based lubricant
- Phone list
- Syringe, if trach tube has a cuff

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR TRACHEOSTOMY OR THE EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT?
Please call Pediatric ENT at (573) 817-3000.
Replacing a Trach Tube

- Remain calm, act quickly.
- Insert trach tube. It is ok to slide the old tube back in if it is the only tube nearby and your child is not breathing. Place a clean trach tube when your child is safe and calm.
- If you cannot place the same size trach tube, call 911, try to place the size smaller trach tube and start rescue breathing/CPR if needed.

Prevention

- Make sure the trach ties are secure, dry and intact. Tighten and/or replace ties daily & as needed. You should be able to place one small finger under ties.
- Do not let anyone pull at the trach tube.

BLEEDING FROM THE TRACH TUBE

If there is a small amount of bleeding call ENT at (573) 817-3000.

For Bright Red Bleeding

- Stay calm.
- Gently suction length of trach tube.
- Use saline to help soothe the airway and prevent plugging.
- Use humidity until help arrives.
- Call 911 or go to ER if longer than 30 minutes.

Prevention

- Use proper suctioning technique.
- Use humidification and saline (increase use when needed).
- Maintain regular checkups with doctor to ensure correct fit of the trach tube.
- If your child shows signs of infection or increased coughing, seek early treatment.

MUCOUS PLUGGING

Removing a Mucous Plug

- Suction the tracheotomy tube.
- Use saline drops and try to suction again.
- Change the trach tube if you cannot pass a catheter.
- Call 911, start rescue breathing and/or CPR if trach change is not effective.
- Administer oxygen, if available.

Prevention

- Make sure your child gets plenty of fluid intake.
- Use an artificial nose or moist collar regularly.
- Suction periodically, using saline when needed to loosen secretions.
- Perform routine tube changes.

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