Standard of Care

Requirements to Meet Standards

• These are the minimum expectations for patient care and will be used as a guide for performance management.
• Every patient receiving this intervention will have care that meets the following standard, striving to continuously improve upon the standard.
• All documentation must meet the documentation standard as identified in the Documentation Standard.

Tracheobronchial Suctioning – Open (Adult)

1. Recognize indications and contraindications.
2. Use professionalism and aseptic technique throughout the procedure.
3. Check patient’s chart for any special orders and/or complications of which to be aware.
4. Assess the patient’s need for suctioning.
5. Approach the patient and explain the procedure appropriate to the patient’s condition and level of consciousness.
6. Collect and assemble the required equipment.
7. Set appropriate suction level.
8. Position the patient.
9. Pre-oxygenate the patient
10. Insert the catheter.
11. Stop insertion when an obstruction is met or when the area to be suctioned is reached and withdraw 2 cm.
12. Initiate suction and begin withdrawing catheter after a 2-second pause.
13. Do not apply suction for longer than 15 seconds.
14. Constantly monitor the patient during the entire procedure.

15. Stop suctioning if appropriate.


17. Assess the need for instillation.

18. Repeat steps 9-19 if additional suctioning as required.


20. Assess the patient.


22. Notify other personnel as appropriate.