

Endotracheal and Tracheostomy Suctioning & Reinsertion Medical Directive

A Primary Care Paramedic may provide the treatment prescribed in this Medical Directive if authorized.

Indications

Patient with endotracheal or tracheostomy tube

AND

Airway obstruction or increased secretions.

Conditions

Suctioning	
Age	N/A
LOA	N/A
HR	N/A
RR	N/A
SBP	N/A
Other	N/A

Emergency tracheostomy reinsertion	
Age	N/A
LOA	N/A
HR	N/A
RR	N/A
SBP	N/A
Other	<p>Patient with an existing tracheostomy where the inner and/or outer cannula(s) have been removed from the airway AND</p> <p>Respiratory distress AND</p> <p>Inability to adequately ventilate AND Paramedics are presented with a tracheostomy cannula for the identified patient.</p>

Contraindications

Suctioning
N/A

Emergency tracheostomy reinsertion
Inability to landmark or visualize

Treatment

Consider Suctioning			
	Age	Age	Age
	< 1 year	≥ 1 year to < 12 years	≥ 12 years
Dose	suction at 60-100 mmHg	suction at 100-120 mmHg	suction at 100-150 mmHg
Max. single dose	10 seconds	10 seconds	10 seconds
Dosing interval	1 minute	1 minute	1 minute
Max. # of doses	N/A	N/A	N/A

Consider emergency tracheostomy reinsertion	
Maximum number of attempts	2

Clinical Considerations

Suctioning:

Pre-oxygenate with 100% oxygen.

In an alert patient, whenever possible, have patient cough to clear airway prior to suctioning.

Emergency tracheostomy reinsertion:

A reinsertion attempt is defined as the insertion of the cannula into the tracheostomy.

A new replacement inner or outer cannula is preferred over cleaning and reusing an existing one.

Utilize a family member or caregiver who is available and knowledgeable to replace the tracheostomy cannula.