

5.8 Suctioning of Inserted Airway

EMT/ ADVANCED EMT / PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

INDICATIONS

- Obstruction of the airway (secondary to secretions, blood, and/or any other substance) in a patient currently being assisted by an inserted airway such as an endotracheal tube or supraglottic airway. For tracheostomy tube see [Tracheostomy Care 5.10](#).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- None.

PROCEDURE

1. Ensure the suction device is operable.
2. Pre-oxygenate the patient.
3. While maintaining aseptic technique, attach the suction catheter to the suction unit.
4. If applicable, remove ventilation device from the airway.
5. Insert the sterile end of the suction catheter into the tube without suction. Insert until resistance is met; pull back approximately 1 – 2 cm.
6. Once the desired depth is met, apply suction by occluding the port of the suction catheter and slowly remove the catheter from the tube using a twisting motion.
7. Suctioning duration should not exceed 15 seconds, using lowest pressure that effectively removes secretions.
8. Saline flush may be used to help loosen secretions and facilitate suctioning.
9. Re-attach the ventilation device to the patient.

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