Use of the Blue Line Ultra® Suctionaid® Tracheostomy Tube

Clinical Instruction Sheet

TUBE INFORMATION
The Blue Line Ultra® Suctionaid® tracheostomy tube is indicated for airway maintenance of tracheostomized patients. The Suctionaid® tube allows aspiration of mucous and subglottic secretions that collect and build up between the tracheostomy tube cuff and the glottis. The Blue Line Ultra® Suctionaid® tracheostomy tube is a cuffed tube with an integral suction lumen to aid removal of secretions from above the cuff and a thumb control valve (port).

SUCTION ABOVE THE CUFF WITH CAUTION
• Ensure secretions are suctioned from above the cuff immediately before deflating the cuff of the tracheostomy tube in order to minimize secretions entering the lungs on cuff deflation.
• Do not suction/lavage through suction lumen with cuff deflated to avoid solutions entering the lungs.
• The Suctionaid® tracheostomy tube does not eliminate the need for routine endobronchial suctioning and oral hygiene procedures.

METHOD 1 – SYRINGE
• Use a 20 mL syringe and gently apply negative pressure while withdrawing the plunger cautiously.

METHOD 2 – WALL SUCTION
• Use low pressure wall suction for continuous aspiration (-20 to -30 mmHg).
• Intermittent suction at -60 to -80 mmHg.

INSTRUCTIONS
1. Suction options based on clinical assessment:
   • Intermittent suction with 20 cc or greater syringe.
   • Intermittent suction with thumb valve and vacuum line –80 to -100 mmHg.
   • Continuous vacuum –20 mmHg.
2. Maintain head of bed at 30 degrees if possible.
3. Suction frequency (for intermittent modes), Q2hrs and PRN.
4. Ensure all secretions are aspirated from the suction line when using intermittent suction (visually inspect line following suction).
5. Maintenance PRN:
   • Periodic vacuum at -80 to -100 mmHg to clear thick secretions when using continuous aspiration. Air bolus to clear obstructions OR saline irrigation 5 cc. Some irrigation fluid may exit stoma.

WARNING
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• The Suctionaid® tracheostomy tube does not eliminate the need for routine endobronchial suctioning and oral hygiene procedures.

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