Suction Machine

Patient/Caregiver Instruction Material

Your doctor has ordered a suction machine to physically remove secretions from the mouth and throat.

You will need the following supplies to suction a patient:

- Suction machine
- Connecting tubing
- Collection bottle
- Suction catheter (Yankaur or Tracheal)
- Container of water

Operation of Unit

1. Place the suction machine on a sturdy surface that will support its weight. Plug the cord from the compressor into a properly grounded, three prong, electrical outlet.
2. Before treatment, wash your hands with soap and water and dry completely. To reduce the possibility of contamination a cleaning technique is essential.
3. Connect the tubing to the outlet port on the lid of the collection bottle.
4. Attach the suction catheter to the other end of the connecting tubing.
5. Turn on the suction machine and check for negative pressure. To do this, kink the connecting tubing with the machine running and note the reading on the gauge. Adjust the pressure by turning the adjustment knob on the suction machine. To prevent damage to the airway, the following are recommended vacuum settings for various age groups:
    - Adults: 80-120mm Hg
    - Children: 80-100mm Hg
    - Infants: 60-80mm Hg

6. Insert the suction catheter into the mouth advancing slowly to the back. If patient starts to cough or gag wait until the patient recovers before continuing. Never suction longer than 15 seconds at a time.
7. After suctioning the patient, suction water through the suction catheter until the catheter and tubing are clear. Do not allow the suction container to rise above the full limit.
8. Turn machine off and wash your hands.

Care of Your Suction Machine:

Cleaning and disinfecting your equipment is simple, yet very important. Proper care prevents respiratory infections. Cleaning should be done in a dust and smoke-free area away from open windows.

1. Wash your hands and put on disposable gloves.
2. Remove the tubing from the port on the collection bottle.
3. Remove the collection bottle from the suction machine and remove the lid from the collection bottle.
4. Empty the contents of the container into your toilet.
5. Wash the collection bottle, bottle lid, connection tubing and suction catheter in a solution of liquid detergent and warm water. Rinse thoroughly and place back into suction machine letting it air dry.
6. Your equipment must be disinfected every third day using a solution of one-half vinegar and one-half water. Soak for a minimum of 30 minutes then rinse and let air dry.

General Care:

1. Keep suction machine clean by wiping it with a clean, damp cloth as needed.
2. Do not put the suction machine on the floor either for treatments or for storage.
3. Check the suction machine's filter as directed. Replace or clean according to the directions from your HME provider.

4. Always have an extra collection bottle, connecting tubing and suction catheter in case you need to replace them.
5. All supplies for your suction machine can be obtained through your HME provider.

Please review the user manual provided for more detailed instructions regarding your new equipment
or contact our office. Thank you.