



Making the difference

Suction Policy



VRANCH HOUSE SCHOOL

SUCTION POLICY

Suction is a procedure that must be prescribed or consented to by the healthcare team. Suction is to be used when more secretions than usual are produced in the respiratory system and/or there is difficulty in expelling the secretions. This may be due to a compromised cough reflex or chest muscle weakness. The child may or may not be distressed by their secretions.

An individual suction machine must be available for the child. Other treatments may also need to be performed pre and post suctioning. Secretion clearance is often carried out by a physiotherapist but can be performed by school nurses and trained carers/parents.

All individuals performing suctioning should receive training in:

- Respiratory assessment.
- Indications for suction.
- Technique.
- Side effects.
- Signs of deterioration.
- How to document.
- Basic life support.

Equipment Required

- Disposable gloves
- Unopened catheters and/or Yankeur
- Suction machine
- Tap water in a container
- Tissues / towel

Procedure – unless otherwise indicated on individual's health care plan

Preparation -

1. Ensure child is comfortably positioned and their face is accessible.
2. Collect equipment required.
3. Wash hands.
4. Check suction machine is working and set at no greater than 20 / 100 – unless otherwise indicated on individual's health care plan.
5. Open catheter by peeling back the sides, attach it to the suction tubing. Ensure you only touch the Y shaped connector, not the tubing.
6. Tuck under your arm or position safely close by, e.g. side of wheelchair
7. Put on a pair of gloves

Your dominant hand will be your "clean" hand – this will be the only hand to touch the suction catheter. Your non-dominant hand will handle everything else.

8. Hold the tubing and catheter packaging in your non-dominant hand. With your "clean" hand pull out the suction catheter and slide along it to hold the tip.



Suctioning -

9. Support the child's head and encourage mouth opening with verbal prompting.
10. Place the catheter to back of the throat. Place your thumb over the Y shaped connector to apply suction.
11. Draw the catheter out smoothly keeping the suction on.
12. Do not adjust the suction pressure or release your thumb.
13. Clear the deposits from tubing by suctioning water.

Disposal -

14. Hold the catheter tip in your "clean" hand and wrap it around your hand several times. Remove your glove and catheter together so that the used catheter remains inside the glove.
15. Dispose of the gloves and catheter in a yellow clinical bin. Other packaging can be thrown in a black bin liner with other paper waste.
16. Wash your hands.

Before and after any respiratory treatments, especially suctioning, the child should be assessed, e.g. respiratory rate, heart rate, palpation of secretions over the chest and/or auscultation. This will ensure effective treatments and determine any benefit or detriment to the child. If repeated suctioning is required ensure the child is comfortable after each procedure and use a different catheter for each suction unless otherwise stated.

Post Suctioning –

Ensure the machine is ready to be used again with a supply of catheters near by. Ensure the suction machine is fully charged.