

# Airway Suctioning Check-Off

## (Instructor Resource)

### PREPARATION:

Supplies:

- Airway Suction Trainer
- Stethoscope
- Monitoring equipment
- Bag resuscitation mask and Venturi mask
- Complete suction unit with oxygen source
- Catheter kit
- Soft suction catheter
- Rigid suction catheter
- Clean gloves
- Sterile gloves
- Specimen collection cup
- Lubricant

After the demonstration, have participants practice suctioning on the Airway Suction Trainer using the following steps:

**Optional:** Evaluate the participant's ability to complete intubation using the following steps. You may score via points or "satisfactory/unsatisfactory."

|                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Verify the order for suctioning from the healthcare provider.                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2. Gather all supplies and ensure that the equipment is set up properly.                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3. Confirm the identity of the patient.                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 4. Perform hand hygiene and apply the appropriate PPE.                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 5. Administer medications, if necessary.                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 6. Perform a baseline assessment unless the need for suctioning is urgent.                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 7. Provide the patient with instructions of the procedure.                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 8. Place the patient in a semi-Fowler's position with their head supported in a neutral position if not contraindicated. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 9. <b>ORAL SUCTIONING:</b> Measure the catheter from the tip of the nose to the earlobe to determine length.             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10. Preoxygenate with 100% oxygen for 1 minute before suctioning.                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>ORAL SUCTIONING</b>                                                                                                   | <b>TRACHEAL SUCTIONING</b>                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 11. Remove a rigid catheter (Yankauer) from its packaging and attach it to the connection tubing.                        | 11. Open a suction catheter kit and don sterile gloves. The dominant hand must remain sterile. Pour sterile water/normal saline into the basin in the kit tray. Squeeze lubricant onto a separate basin of tray. |
| 12. Do not discard the packaging. The packaging will be used to store the catheter for reuse.                            | 12. Pick up a catheter from the kit with the dominant hand without touching non-sterile surfaces.                                                                                                                |

## Introduction to Airway Suctioning Curriculum

|                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 13. Open the mouth, looking at the throat to verify the condition of the airway.                                                                                        | 13. Pick up the connection tubing with the non-dominant hand. Connect and secure the catheter to the connection tubing.                                                                                                                                      |  |
| 14. Ask the conscious patient to cough, if able.                                                                                                                        | 14. Check proper suctioning function by suctioning a small amount of normal saline from the basin.                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| 15. Gently insert the tip of the catheter into the patient's mouth and advance the catheter towards the oropharynx by gently pushing the tongue down.                   | 15. Open the mouth with the non-dominant hand, looking at the throat to verify the condition of the airway.                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| 16. Stimulate the cough reflex if the patient does not cough naturally.                                                                                                 | 16. Remove any visible surface secretions before inserting the catheter deep into the patient's nare, mouth, tracheostomy tube, or endotracheal tube with normal saline.                                                                                     |  |
| 17. Apply suctioning while moving the tip of the catheter around the mouth until secretions are clear. Place a finger over the catheter side opening to create suction. | 17. Ask the conscious patient to cough, if able.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | 18. <b>NASOPHARYNGEAL:</b> Apply lubrication on the distal end of the catheter before inserting in the nare.                                                                                                                                                 |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | 19. Gently insert the suction catheter into the patient's airway without applying suction. Withdraw the catheter 1-2 cm once resistance is felt. Do not force the catheter if inserting is difficult; remove and reinsert.                                   |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | 20. Stimulate the cough reflex if the patient does not cough naturally.                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | 21. Place a finger on the catheter side opening to apply suction while withdrawing the catheter in a circular motion intermittently for 10-15 seconds.<br><b>TRACHEAL:</b> Catheter does not need to be rotated when using an in-line/closed suction system. |  |
| 22. Reoxygenate the patient for 1 minute with 100% oxygen.                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| 23. Observe the aspirated secretion for amount, color, consistency, or any blood.                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| 24. If ordered, collect a sample of the secretions and place them into a collection cup.                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |

## Introduction to Airway Suctioning Curriculum

|                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                      |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 25. Rinse the catheter with normal saline to remove secretions.<br><b>EMS:</b> Catheter irrigation is not needed, and the catheter can be disposed of once suctioning is complete. |                                                                      |  |
| 26. Repeat suctioning if needed until the airway is clear with a maximum of 3 attempts.<br><b>TRACHEAL:</b> Suction oropharynx when tracheal suctioning is complete.               |                                                                      |  |
| 27. Allow 30 seconds to 1 minute between suctioning attempts to monitor patient vitals, allow the patient to rest, and determine the effectiveness or possible complications.      |                                                                      |  |
| 28. <b>ORAL:</b> Place the catheter in the original packaging or in a clean and dry area to reuse later.                                                                           | 28. <b>TRACHEAL:</b> Return the oxygen to the prescribed liter flow. |  |
| 29. Discard any disposable supplies appropriately.                                                                                                                                 |                                                                      |  |
| 30. Monitor the patient's vitals for potential complications, perform a respiratory assessment, and determine the effectiveness of suctioning.                                     |                                                                      |  |
| 31. Document the procedure in the patient's chart.                                                                                                                                 |                                                                      |  |