**ASSESSMENT & PREPARATION**

### Suction Pump

Suction pumps use a negative vacuum created by an internal pump to remove blood or secretions from oral and nasopharyngeal cavities.

**USE FOR**
Patients with secretions or blood in the mouth, nostrils, and upper airways.

**STANDARD OF CARE**
Neonates should be suctioned between -60 to -100 mmHg for less than 10 seconds.

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1. **PREPARE DEVICE**
   - Connect the patient suction tubing to the collection reservoir port labelled “patient”.
   - Plug the power cable into the wall and turn on suction pump.
   - Adjust the suction vacuum to desired level then test the suction by suctioning water from a small container.

2. **PREPARE PATIENT**
   - Follow hand washing protocol and put on gloves.
   - Inspect patient’s oral and nasopharyngeal cavities for secretions or blood.
   - With the suction catheter measure suction depth from the nose to the ear and halfway back, mark distance with a small piece of tape.

3. **SUCTION PATIENT**
   - Place patient in a neutral position.
   - **A** Pinch or occlude catheter and insert gently into mouth or nostril to point marked with tape.
   - Release pinch or occlusion as you withdraw catheter slowly, gently rotating until completely removed.
   - **B** Rinse catheter with water and repeat process in other nostril.

4. **REMOVE PATIENT FROM DEVICE**
   - Gently withdraw suction catheter from patient’s oral or nasopharyngeal cavity.
   - Safely dispose of reservoir contents and patient suction catheter.

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**COMPLICATIONS**
- Hypoxia
- Trauma
- Vomiting
- Vagal stimulation

Gently suction infant for **NO MORE than 10 seconds.** Allow infant to recover before suctioning again.

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**DISINFECTION & INFECTION PREVENTION**
- Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol before and after handling materials that will be used on a patient.
- All tubing must be disinfected **IMMEDIATELY** after use otherwise bleach re-processing may be inadequate for disinfection.
- Ensure all items are new or have been cleaned before use.
- Disinfect suction pump housing and pressure gauge control with 70% alcohol.
- Refer to the General Infection Prevention Module.
**Suction Pump**

Suction consumables should be kept nearby for easy access in case of emergency.

### DAILY MAINTENANCE

If a suction pump is battery powered, it should be taken off its charger only as necessary to ensure that it is charged for use in the event of a power blackout.

- Check that the machine’s power cable is firmly secured and power at the socket is on.

### PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

The suction pump should be turned on and allowed to run for at least 15 minutes every week if it has not been in use.

- Empty after use.

### Cleaning the machine routinely for infection prevention

- Yankauer sucker and patient catheter must be cleared of debris by suctioning clean water following each use.
- Patient suction tubing to the reservoir must be cleaned immediately between every patient (see diagram below).

### CONTACT A TECHNICIAN OR MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT IF DEVICE CONTINUES TO NOT WORK PROPERLY AFTER ADDRESSING THE COMMON ISSUES

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**Clinical Job Aid**

**Respiratory Support — Suction Pump (Aspeed)**