

# Open suctioning

## Supplies Needed:

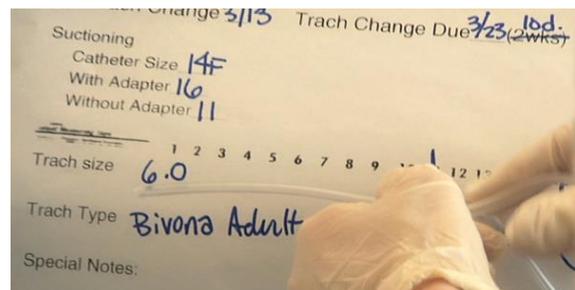
1. Suction machine
2. Suction Tubing
3. Clean suction catheter kit with sterile gloves
4. Sterile saline if indicated

## Open Suctioning Procedure:

1. If the student is on a ventilator, wipe the ventilator adaptor with an alcohol swab and let dry completely.



2. Verify the measurement for suction depth. The suction depth will depend on the type and size of the tracheostomy tube.



3. Turn on the suction machine. Make sure pressures on suction machine are 80-120.



4. Open the suction catheter kit making sure to keep everything inside sterile. Do not allow the contents of the package to touch anything outside of the package. Put on the sterile gloves inside the package and pick up the suction catheter in your dominant hand.



5. Connect the catheter to the suction machine. Hold the suction catheter in your dominant hand. Use your other hand to hold the suction machine tubing while connecting the two.

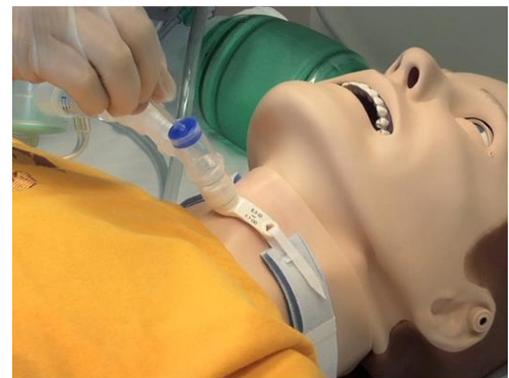
- Note: Your non dominant hand is no longer sterile and you should not touch any part of the suction catheter that will enter the tracheostomy tube with this hand.



6. Insert the catheter into the tracheostomy tube to the appropriate suction depth without applying suction.



If the student is on a ventilator, you may insert the suction catheter directly into the ventilator adaptor. You can also disconnect the adaptor from the student's trach using your non sterile hand and suction directly into the tracheostomy tube. Remember the suction depth will change depending on if you use the adaptor or not.



7. Once the desired suction depth has been reached, apply suction by putting your thumb over the hole in the catheter while you gently pull the catheter out of the tracheostomy tube. Roll the catheter between your thumb and forefinger as you pull the catheter out.



8. Apply suction for no longer than 5 seconds at a time.
9. If secretions are thick you may use saline on your next suction pass. You can squirt a few drops of saline directly into the tracheostomy tube or into the ventilator adapter before you suction.



10. You may use the same suction catheter multiple times in a row as long as it stays sterile and does not touch anything but the inside of the tracheostomy tube.
11. Suction as many times as you need to until you are no longer getting secretions when you suction. Make sure to give the student time to take a few breaths between each suction pass.