

HOSPITAL: _____

Respiratory Care Services Policy and Procedure Manual

Policy and Procedure:	TrachGuard™
Area: Respiratory Care Services	Performed by: Respiratory Care Practitioners

Policy Number:	Approved by:
	Date:

Current Effective Date	Approved by:
	Date:

Review Date	Approved by:
	Date:

Revised Date	Approved by:
	Date:

POLICY

This policy assures the standardized the use of **TrachGuard™** as a tracheostomy collar and for securing the tracheostomy tube and the ventilator circuit, in-line suction system or other supplemental gas delivery systems.

PURPOSE

The purpose is to provide for an easy implemented protocol to be used by the Respiratory Care Practitioner with effective guidelines and consistent instruction for use and patient application of **TrachGuard™** tracheostomy collar, tracheostomy tube holder and anti-disconnect device.

DEFINITION

To ensure safety, the patient with a tracheostomy should have a securing device to keep the mechanical ventilator connector attached to the tracheostomy tube. Tube holder refers to a device that holds an artificial airway, such as a tracheostomy, in place so that the airway is not accidentally dislodged.

SETTINGS

The tracheostomy tube should be placed and secured in an environment in which the patient can be physiologically monitored and in which emergency equipment and appropriately trained health care providers with airway management skills are immediately available.

EQUIPMENT

TrachGuard™ tracheostomy tube holder and anti-disconnect device (includes a fully adjustable VELCRO® brand collar neck band & Blue anti-disconnect device), Alcohol Swabs, Bandage Scissors, Skin and Oral Care Supplies, Suction setup with an appropriate size suction catheter and an oral attachment.

PROCEDURE

A. Application/Preparation Steps

1. Clean the patient's neck and tracheostomy site to remove all secretions & moisture.
2. Pass the Neck band behind the patient's head around the neck.
3. Release the white strips from the Collar Neck band.

B. Application/Action Steps

1. Take the VELCRO® brand Tips of the Neck band and pass it through the lateral flanges of the tracheostomy tube.
2. Take the VELCRO® brand leading edge & fasten it back along the Collar Neck band.
3. Smooth the VELCRO® brand section to assure complete engagement of the VELCRO® brand surfaces.
4. Be sure to pull the Collar/Neck band tight enough that only one finger can be inserted between the Collar & the patient's neck (Figure 2).
5. Place the Blue anti-disconnect O-ring over the 15mm Tracheostomy connector.
6. Once the "O" shaped ring is in position, secure the blue VELCRO® brand straps to each side of the trach collar neck band.
7. Trim the Blue straps to a length to maximize contact with the collar/neckband.
8. Smooth the VELCRO® brand sections to assure complete engagement of the VELCRO® brand surfaces.
9. Place the two White VELCRO® brand straps around the device (Figure 3) you wish to secure to the tracheostomy (such as the mechanical ventilator airway connector) and fasten the straps to each other to form a loop.
10. Smooth the VELCRO® brand sections to assure complete engagement of the VELCRO® brand surfaces.

C: Documentation

Chart the Time, Date and appropriate documentation on the Ventilator flow Sheet.

D. Precautions and Adverse Effects

1. Inspect the patient's tracheostomy site and connection every Shift or per hospital policy to assure the device is working correctly.
2. The TrachGuard Ventilator Collar and Tubing Anti-Disconnect Device may get discolored with secretions, blood or other bodily fluids, change as necessary or per hospital policy.
3. The TrachGuard is intended for patients with neck size greater than 8 inches and less than 17 inches in circumference.
4. The TrachGuard is intended for single patient use.

VELCRO® is a Registered trademark of VELCRO Industries B.V.



Figure 1

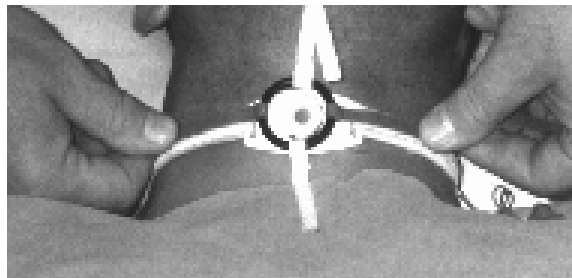


Figure 2



Figure 3

REFERENCES

1. AARC Clinical Practice Guideline/Management of Airway Emergencies Respir Care 1995; 40(7):749-760).