



12 Essential Elements of Tracheostomy Care for Adult Patients

12 Essential Care Elements

1	Communication	Patient has communication strategy in place AND call bell within reach
2	Tracheostomy plan	Patient has documented Tracheostomy plan in place which has been reviewed within last 24hrs
3	Patient assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> clinical observations have been documented and actioned in accordance with clinical status documentation of evaluation of need for and outcomes of suctioning
4	Nurse	Nurse caring for patient is an enrolled nurse or registered nurse AND has or is supervised by a registered nurse who has completed a tracheostomy training program within past 2yrs
5	Safety equipment	All safety equipment is available, functional and has been checked within past 24 hours
6	The tracheostomy tube is secure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tapes changed within last 24 hours TT does not move more than 1cm in any direction Able to insert small finger between tapes If Tube is an Adjustable flange <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flange position marked & documented in notes Inspected & documented within past shift
7	Cuff pressure	Has been checked & documented within last 4 hours AND is between 25-30cmH2O
8	Humidification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat moisture exchanger – clean & checked within last 2hrs OR Active – Temp > 37 C, H₂O level > 1/3
9	Inner Cannulae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where applicable should be cleaned at least 4hrly AND A spare clean & dry inner cannulae is within bed area
10	Stoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dressing attended within past 24 hours AND Dressing clean & dry OR No dressing - Stoma clean & dry with no secretions
11	Suction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-sterile gloves should be worn when using closed suction systems Suction techniques using an open technique must use an aseptic technique
12	Infection prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> inner cannulae are not cleaned at hand basins Tracheostomy care incorporated into hand hygiene education

Tracheostomy Review Teams

Who

- Specialist nurse
- Speech pathologist
- Physiotherapist
- Medical officer

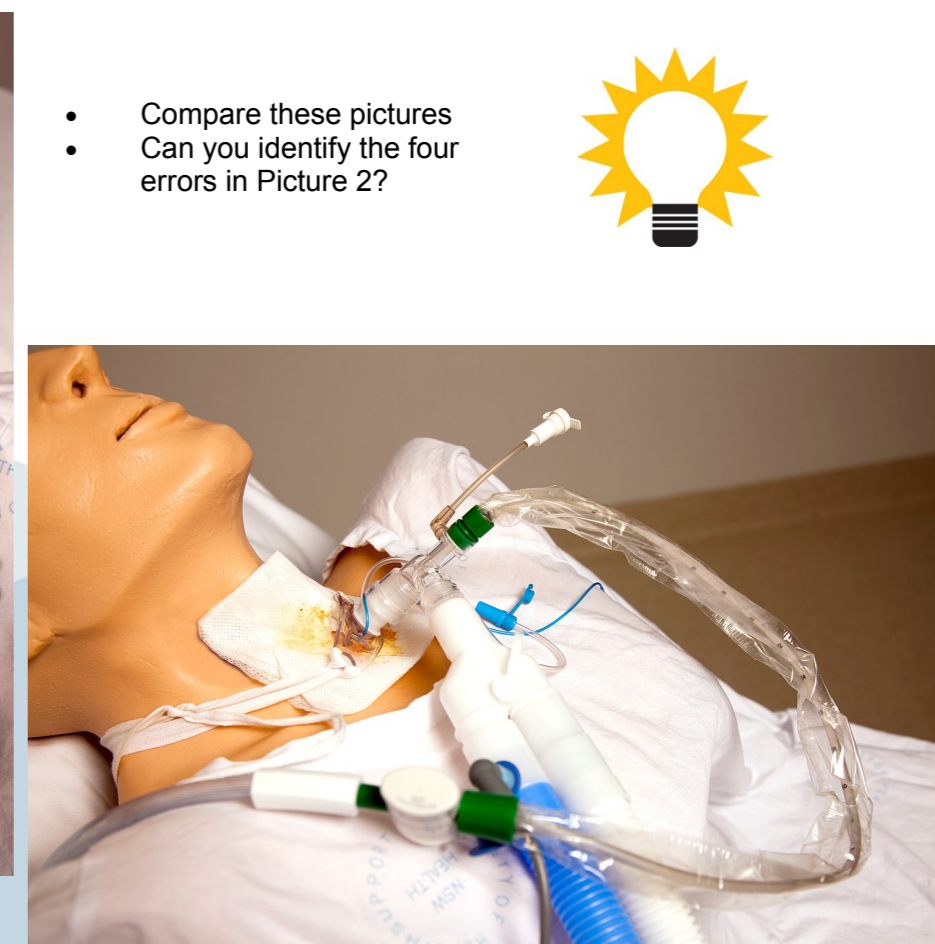
What

- Review patients & coordinate care
- Provide education enabling clinical staff to become more confident and provide better care
- Provide a consultation service especially on: appliances, decannulation, respiratory and physical care, communication and swallow; and diet

- ↓ time to decannulation
- ↓ hospital LOS,
- ↓ adverse events
- ↓ readmit to ICU

- ↑ care consistent with protocol
- ↑ inter-professional decision making
- ↑ effective and efficient care
- ↑ transfer to wards
- ↑ patient outcomes

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- Cameron,T. 2009. Critical Care and Resuscitation, 11(1): p. 14-9.
- LeBlanc,J. 2010. Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation, 25(5): p. 362-5.
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- Compare these pictures
- Can you identify the four errors in Picture 2?

