
Forsyth County EMS

Skill Procedure: Airway – Suctioning, Basic

	MR / EMT	
	Expanded Scope EMT	
	EMT-I	
	EMT-P	

Clinical Indications:

- A. Obstruction of the airway (secondary to secretions, blood, or any other substance) in a patient who cannot maintain or keep the airway clear.

II. Procedure:

- A. Ensure suction device is in proper working order with suction tip in place.
- B. Pre-oxygenate the patient as is possible.
- C. Explain the procedure to the patient if they are coherent.
- D. Examine the oropharynx and remove any potential foreign bodies or material, which may occlude the airway if dislodged by the suction device.
- E. If applicable, remove ventilation devices from the airway.
- F. Use the suction device to remove any secretions, blood, or other substance. Do not exceed 15 seconds of suctioning with oxygenating the patient.
- G. The alert patient may assist with this procedure.
- H. Reattach ventilation device (e.g., bag-valve mask) and ventilate or assist the patient.
- I. Record the time and result of the suctioning in the patient care report (PCR).

III. Certification Requirements:

Maintain knowledge of the indications, contraindications, technique, and possible complications of the procedure. Assessment of this knowledge may be accomplished via quality assurance mechanisms, classroom demonstrations, skills stations, or other mechanisms as deemed appropriate by the local EMS System. Assessment should include direct observation at least once per certification cycle.

Approved by:
Dr. R.L. Alson
Medical Director
May, 2006