

# Nasopharyngeal and Oropharyngeal Suctioning

*SOP – Please refer to the full procedure for rational and additional information on each step*

Pre-procedure	
	1. Perform hand hygiene
	2. Confirm the patient's identity
	3. Assess patient's need for suctioning
	4. Explain procedure to patient or caregiver in his/her preferred language, why they require it and the risks and benefits of the procedure. Allow the patient/caregiver to ask questions and obtain verbal consent
	5. If during the respiratory assessment secretions deemed dry and thick, consider administering 0.9% sodium chloride nebulizer or nasal saline drops before suctioning
	6. Provide privacy
	7. Perform hand hygiene
	8. Clean/disinfect tray/trolley and suction pump and allow to dry
	9. Gather equipment on dry tray/trolley: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Suction catheter</li> <li>b. Suction tubing</li> <li>c. Connectors</li> <li>d. Suction pump</li> <li>e. For nasopharyngeal suctioning               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 0.9% sodium chloride</li> <li>b. 19G needle</li> <li>c. 2 ml syringe</li> </ol> </li> <li>f. Bottle of potable water</li> <li>g. Cup for water</li> <li>h. Aspiration bulb (for neonates only)</li> <li>i. Non-sterile gloves</li> <li>j. Oral sucrose solution (for infants &lt;6 months)</li> <li>k. Personal Protective equipment               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Apron</li> <li>b. Protective glasses</li> <li>c. Mask</li> </ol> </li> <li>l. Detergent/disinfectant for surfaces</li> <li>m. Alcohol-based hand rub</li> <li>n. Waste bin (s)</li> </ol>
Action	
	10. Fill cup with potable water and set on clean tray
	11. <b>If performing nasopharyngeal suctioning</b> , prepare 2ml of 0.9% sodium chloride and place on clean tray
	12. Perform hand hygiene

	13. Assist patient into position
	14. If performing <b>nasopharyngeal suctioning in a patient 0-6 months</b> , consider non-pharmacological methods to reduce pain
	15. Perform hand hygiene, put on non-sterile gloves and other PPE according to risk of exposure
	16. Open the end of the chosen suction catheter pack and attach to the suction tubing
	17. Ensure the suction pressure is set to the approximate level
	18. With assistance, immobilize the head of a paediatric or neonatal patient
	19. If <b>using a suction catheter</b> , remove the catheter from its sleeve and measure the distance length of tube to be inserted
	20. If performing <b>nasopharyngeal suctioning</b> , insert few drops of 0.9% sodium chloride into the nostril
	21. Gently introduce the catheter into a nostril or the mouth of the patient with the suction pressure turned off
	22. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Activate suction by covering vent/unbending suction tubing (when present) and slowly</li> <li>b. Continuously withdraw tubing OR, if using a yankauer, continuously move the catheter tip</li> </ul>
	23. Do not suction for more than 10 seconds (5 seconds in neonates)
	24. Allow patient to rest for 30 seconds, re-apply oxygen if needed
	25. While patient resting, insert the tip of the suction catheter into the potable water
	26. Reassess patient and repeat steps 21-28 until airway clear
	<b>Action</b>
	27. With the suction activated, insert the tip of the suction catheter/yankauer into potable water. Continue until all material is rinsed clear of visible secretions
	28. Ensure waste is disposed of according to local procedure, including emptying the reservoir/canister appropriately
	29. Clean/disinfect the reservoir/canister and suction pump
	30. Remove non-sterile gloves and other PPE, discard single-use items
	31. Clean/disinfect tray/trolley
	32. Perform hand hygiene
	33. Document procedure date, time and pre-/post-assessment results obtained in the patient's file
	34. Follow-up patient