

# Emergency Paediatric Tracheostomy Management

**SAFETY - STIMULATE - SHOUT FOR HELP - OXYGEN**

**SAFE:** Check Safe area, Stimulate, and Shout for help  
**AIRWAY:** Open child's airway: head tilt / chin lift / pillow or towel under shoulders may help  
**OXYGEN:** Ensure **high flow oxygen** to the **tracheostomy AND the face** as soon as oxygen available  
**CAPNOGRAPHY:** Exhaled carbon dioxide waveform may indicate a patent airway (advanced response)

**SUCTION TO ASSESS TRACHEOSTOMY PATENCY**

**Remove attachments: humidifier (HME), speaking valve**  
**Change inner tube (if present)**  
 Inner tubes may need re-inserting to connect to breathing circuits

Can you pass a **SUCTION** catheter?

Yes

**The tracheostomy tube is patent**  
 Perform tracheal suction  
 Consider partial obstruction  
 Consider tracheostomy tube change  
**CONTINUE ASSESSMENT (ABCDE)**

No

**EMERGENCY TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE CHANGE**

Deflate cuff (if present). Reassess patency after any tube change  
**1<sup>st</sup> change – same size tube**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> change – one-half size smaller tube**

**IF UNSUCCESSFUL – REMOVE THE TUBE**

**IS THE PATIENT BREATHING?** - Look, listen and feel at the mouth and tracheostomy/stoma

No

**CALL FOR HELP: 2222 in hospital, 999 in community**

**5 RESCUE BREATHS**

Tracheostomy tube in situ – ventilate via tracheostomy tube  
**IF NOT**  
**Patent Upper Airway – face mask ventilation (occluding stoma)**  
**Obstructed Upper Airway – stoma mask ventilation**

**NO SIGNS OF LIFE? START CPR**

**15 compressions : 2 rescue breaths**  
 Ensure help or resuscitation team called

Yes

Continue oxygen  
 Stabilize  
 Reassess  
 Review

Plan for definitive airway if tube change failure

**Primary emergency oxygenation**

Standard **ORAL airway** manoeuvres  
**Cover the stoma** (swabs / hand).  
 Use:  
 Bag-valve-face mask  
 Oral or nasal airway adjuncts  
 Supraglottic Airway (SGA)  
 e.g. Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA)

**Tracheostomy STOMA** ventilation  
 Paediatric face-mask applied to stoma  
 SGA applied to stoma

**Secondary emergency oxygenation**

**ORAL intubation** with endotracheal tube  
 Uncut tube, advanced beyond stoma  
 One half-size smaller than tracheostomy tube  
**'Difficult Airway' Expert and Equipment\***

Attempt **intubation of STOMA**  
 3.0 ID tracheostomy or endotracheal tube  
**'Difficult Airway' Expert and Equipment\***

**\*EQUIPMENT: Fibreoptic scope, bougie, airway exchange catheter, Airway trolley**

Basic Response

Advanced Response