



Amherst Fire District Procedure

Airway Suctioning - Basic

Clinical Indications:

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

Procedure:

1. Ensure suction device is in proper working order with suction tip in place.
2. Pre-oxygenate the patient if possible.
3. Explain the procedure to the patient if they are coherent.
4. Examine the oropharynx and remove any potential foreign bodies or material which may occlude the airway if dislodged by the suction device.
5. If applicable, remove ventilation devices from the airway.
6. Apply suction only after the device has been inserted in the oral cavity or airway.
7. Use the suction device to remove any secretions, blood, or other substances.
8. Apply suction device for up to 10 seconds.
- 9.. The alert patient may assist with this procedure.
10. Reattach ventilation device (e.g., bag-valve mask) and ventilate or assist the patient
11. Record the time and result of the suctioning in the patient care report (PCR).

Certification Requirements:

- Successfully complete an annual skill evaluation inclusive of the indications, contraindications, technique, and the possible complications of the procedure.