



Skills Modules 3.0 Checklist: Airway Management

Performing Nasopharyngeal or Nasotracheal Suctioning

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the following checklist to evaluate competency in completing this skill. Select Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) for each step and provide comments as needed.

*Document the relevant information (assessment findings, pharmacological and nonpharmacological interventions) in the client's medical record.

Beginning Steps

STEP	S	U	EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS
Gather equipment as needed.			
*Provide privacy as needed.			
*Introduce yourself to the client.			
*Verify client identification.			
*Determine whether the client has allergies or any contraindications to the procedure.			
*Provide client education.			
*Perform hand hygiene and put on appropriate PPE as indicated.			

STEP	S U EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS
Place client in semi-Fowler's position.	
Connect suction tubing to suction machine and to suction device.	
Turn suction device on at a setting of 100 to 150 mm Hg. Place the suction tubing near the client and assess functioning of suction.	
Place drape over the client's chest to prevent transmission of micro-organisms.	
Open suction kit and/or catheter using aseptic technique.	
If indicated, hyperoxygenate the client by increasing oxygen to 100% or ask the client to deep breathe.	
If indicated, remove oxygen device with nondominant hand.	

Nasopharyngeal Suctioning

STEP	S	U	EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS
Open the lubricant and squeeze a small amount onto the sterile field.			
Perform hand hygiene and don sterile gloves.			
Fill sterile basin with sterile 0.9% sodium chloride.			
Using dominant hand, test suction in sterile basin. Then lightly lubricate the suction catheter with water-soluble lubricant.			
Insert the catheter into the client's naris as the client takes a breath.			
Gently rotate the catheter while following the natural course of the nasal passage, pointing the catheter slightly downward and advancing the catheter to the back of the pharynx.			
Apply intermittent suction for 10 to 15 seconds as you withdraw and rotate the catheter.			
Reapply oxygen if needed.			
Rinse catheter and tubing with the 0.9% sodium chloride.			
Assess if there is a need to repeat suctioning. If indicated, allow at least 20 seconds before suctioning again.			

Nasotracheal Suctioning

STEP	S	U	EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS
Open the lubricant and squeeze a small amount onto the sterile field.			
Perform hand hygiene and don sterile gloves.			
Fill sterile basin with sterile 0.9% sodium chloride.			
Using dominant hand, test suction in sterile basin. Then lightly lubricate the suction catheter with water-soluble lubricant.			
Insert the catheter into the client's naris as the client takes a breath.			
Gently rotate the catheter while following the natural course of the nasal passage, pointing the catheter slightly downward and advancing the catheter through the pharynx and into the trachea until resistance is felt, or coughing occurs.			
As the client coughs, apply suction and withdraw the catheter while rolling it between the thumb and index finger.			
Suction and catheter removal should last no longer than 10 to 15 seconds.			
Rinse catheter and tubing by suctioning sterile 0.9% sodium chloride.			
Instruct the client to deep breathe and hyperoxygenate as needed.			

STEP	S U EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS
Assess for indications of repeat suctioning. Repeat procedure as needed, waiting at least 1 minute between each pass of the suction catheter.	
When suctioning is complete, disconnect the suction catheter from the tubing.	
Remove and dispose of gloves, PPE, and suction catheter.	
Perform hand hygiene.	
*Ensure that the client is in a safe position prior to leaving the room and has the call light within reach.	

References

Potter, P. A., Perry, A. G., Stockert, P., & Hall, A. (2017). *Fundamentals of nursing* (9th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier, pp 910-911

Taylor, C., Lynn, P. and Bartlett, J. (2019). *Fundamentals of nursing* (9th ed.). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer. Page 1324-1328