

B-290 Humidification via Condenser

Purpose: To provide humidity to the airway as an artificial airway (tracheostomy) bypasses the body's natural humidification process.

Applies To

- Registered Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses

Equipment/Supplies

Condenser, electrical outlet, corrugated tubing, plastic container/bottle that holds water and connects to condenser, water trap, trach collar and distilled or sterile water for inhalation.

Procedure

1. Wash hands and dry. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure. Don clean gloves.
2. Fill condenser bottle to fill line with distilled or water for inhalation as supplied by DME company and attach to condenser.
3. Cut enough corrugated tubing to reach from condenser bottle to patient's tracheostomy allowing enough to hang dependently from each side barely touching the floor.
4. Connect corrugated tubing to condenser bottle to client's tracheostomy collar and turn condenser on.
5. Place tracheostomy collar around client's neck and snap together.
6. At most dependent part of corrugated tubing loop, cut corrugated tubing and apply a water trap.
7. If condenser contains a dial, dial up humidity until water particles noted in tube. Tubing should always contain glistening like appearance and humidity should be seen at tracheostomy collar.

Documentation guidelines

Document in the clinical record:

1. Type of humidification device and patient's response to device.
2. Character, color and amount of secretions.
3. Respiratory rate, character and effort.

Nursing Considerations

- Keep water filled to line on condenser bottle.
- Keep water trap emptied.

- Use caution in repositioning client to avoid dumping water into tracheostomy.
- Assure that collar is over the top of the tracheostomy tube.
- Use a continuous pulse oximetry if one is ordered for client while using humidity as a safety device.
- Quickly respond to coughing, gagging or decreased oxygen saturations.

Pediatric Considerations

- Keep infant or child from pulling on trach collar or tubing.
- Constantly assure that movement does not cause water to be directed toward client's tracheostomy causing dumping of water in tracheostomy.

Related Procedures

Tracheal Care Suctioning, HME/Thermovent use and pulse oximetry monitoring.

Policy History

Approval Date	01/17/2010
Approved By	Herman Pippin, Sandra Hill
Revision Date	
Approved by	
Revision Date	
Approved by	
Revision Date	
Approved by	