

“Neck Only Breathers” Laryngectomy Emergency Box Tea Trolley Training Teaching Plan

- 1) Introduction
 - a. Laryngectomy patients with a tracheostomy differ from others with a tracheostomy as they do not have a patent upper airway and are therefore “neck-only breathers”
 - b. As a result, being able to act quickly in case of a tracheostomy emergency is vital
 - c. National tracheostomy guidelines recommend that emergency equipment should be immediately available at the bedside, in a dedicated box.
 - d. We will take this opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the equipment and work through an example of the emergency algorithm in action
- 2) Talk through equipment box contents
 - a. Box to be located at patients bedside
 - b. Hand out box contents to participants, encourage them to handle/open equipment to aid memory of contents
 - c. Explain function of each piece of emergency equipment
- 3) Talk through the training sheet scenario
 - a. Assign roles to training participants
 - i. First responder
 - ii. First assistant (responsible for finding and reading algorithm)
 - iii. Senior airway doctor
 - iv. Runner
 - v. Remainder to be observers
 - b. Scenario
 - i. A patient with a laryngectomy has collapsed on the floor and appears cyanosed, there is audible upper airway noise and you call for help
 - ii. First assistant to read algorithm aloud and first responder to implement actions
 - iii. Runner sent to call for senior airway doctor, fetch emergency airway trolley and slim bronchoscope
 - iv. If possible use tracheostomy airway model to demonstrate each step of the algorithm, including removing inner cannula, passing suction catheter, passing bronchoscope, ‘railroading’ endotracheal tube
- 4) Summary
 - a. Emphasise differences between “neck only breathers” and other tracheostomy patients
 - b. Emphasise importance of using Laryngectomy emergency algorithm
 - c. Emphasise importance of early senior airway doctor assistance
 - d. Emphasise need to accompany patients at all times, including transfers
 - e. Encourage discussion and suggestions of additions to emergency box – this may be specific to your place of work
- 5) Tea, cakes, chocolates, feedback forms and attendance registers