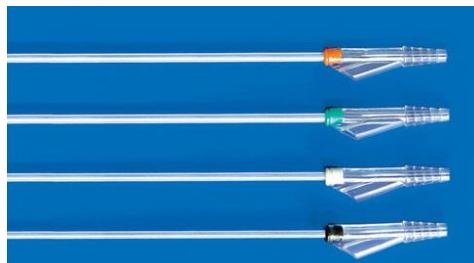


Equipment and supplies

You will require replacement suction catheters. These will be initially provided by the ward before you take your child home. Further supplies can be obtained through the Children and Young People's Home Care Team. If you have problems obtaining supplies, then please contact your child's Community Nurse.

Remember to order supplies in good time before they run out and only use equipment for the specified amount of time.



This leaflet is available in audio, braille, large print and other languages. To request a copy, please telephone 01270 612071.



Mid Cheshire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Oral and Nasal Suction

Information for patients and relatives



Children and Young People's Home Care Team
Leighton Hospital
Middlewich Road
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 4QJ

Direct Line: 01270 612071



Because you Matter

What is suction?

Suction is the drawing of air out of a space to create a vacuum that will then suck in surrounding liquids.

Oral and nasal suction is a method of removing mucus from the nose or mouth to provide an open airway by keeping it clear of excessive secretions.

Why would my child require suction?

- Bubbling sound due to mucus in the mouth or nose.
- Mucus can be seen clearly in the mouth or nose.
- When your child is having trouble breathing and your child:
 - Becomes pale/cyanosed
 - Has an increased rate of breathing
 - Becomes restless

How often will my child require suction?

The frequency that you will need to give suction will vary according to factors such as changing atmospheric temperature which can cause the secretions to become dry or thick and sticky.

If your child has a cold there may be more secretions. Your child will often indicate if they need to clear secretions.

In general the lowest amount of suction pressure needed to remove secretions should be used.



Can suction cause any problems?

Excessive suction causes trauma, therefore only give when needed.

Using too large a catheter blocks airways.

Inserting a catheter too far can cause lung collapse.

Bacterial infection can be caused from carers not washing hands effectively.

Do not force the catheter if resistance is felt as damage to the mucosa of the trachea may be caused.

