

# Subglottic Aspiration in Critical Care

**Aim** To provide guidance on subglottic aspiration for patients with endotracheal or tracheostomy tubes

**Scope** All adult patients in Critical Care with endotracheal or tracheostomy tubes in situ. This SOP should be used in conjunction with the Ventilator Care Bundle and Endotracheal Tube and Tracheostomy Tube SOPs.

## Critical Care patient with endotracheal tube (ETT) or tracheostomy

Does the ETT or tracheostomy have a subglottic aspiration port?

**Yes**

**No**

**Aspirate the subglottic port every 4 hours\*  
using a 5ml syringe**

**Less than 5 ml fluid  
aspirated**

**5 ml or more fluid  
aspirated**

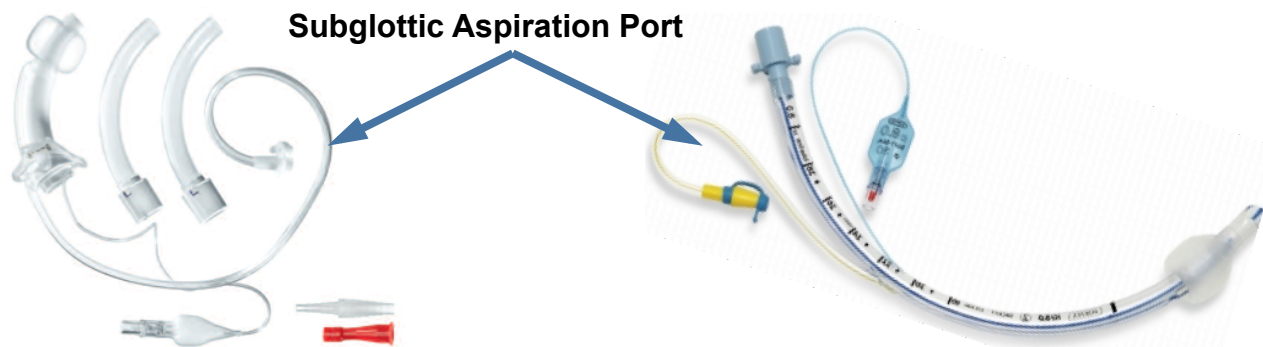
**Repeat aspiration  
every 4 hours**  
If more than 5ml  
aspirated, then change to  
2-hourly aspiration

**Repeat aspiration  
every 2 hours**  
If less than 5ml  
aspirated, then change  
to 4-hourly aspiration

**Do not change the tube for  
the sole purpose of gaining  
a subglottic port.**

If the tube needs to be changed for  
another reason, change to one with  
a subglottic port.

## Subglottic Aspiration Port



### \*Other times to aspirate subglottic port include:

- Immediately before extubation (aspirate to dryness)
- Before moving for patient turns or transfer

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