Intermountain® Healthcare

HOMECARE SERIES

Nasal Suction Therapy at Home

A suction machine is used to remove secretions from the nose. Removing the secretions will allow you or the person you are caring for to breathe, eat, and talk more comfortably.

How to use the suction machine

Set-up

1. Place the suction machine on a stable surface and plug in.
2. Wash your hands.
3. Connect the tubing to the outlet port on the lid of the collection bottle.
4. Attach the catheter to the other end of the tubing.

Therapy

1. Wash your hands.
2. Turn on the machine.
3. Adjust the pressure to the proper setting using the adjustment knob. (100 - 150 mmHg)
4. Place the catheter at the tip of the nostrils to suction. Never suction for longer than 2 seconds. Stop suctioning up on coughing or gagging.
5. After suctioning the nostrils, suction water through the catheter until the catheter and tubing are clear.
6. Turn off the machine.
7. Wash your hands.

Be safe

Always follow these guidelines when using a suction machine:

- Only use the grounding (three-prong) plug in an outlet that is properly grounded.
- Place the machine on a hard, flat surface.
- Clean equipment regularly.
- Check filters regularly.
- Wash hands regularly.

Refer to the manufacturer's website for further information about your equipment. If you are still experiencing problems, contact Intermountain Homecare.

Regular cleaning will prevent infections

Daily

Empty the collection bottle at least once each day — flush fluids down the toilet. Wash the bottle, lid, tubing, and the catheter in warm soapy water and rinse well. Allow to air dry.

Weekly

Wipe the outside of the machine with a damp cloth.

After washing the suction bottle, lid, tubing, and catheter with soap and water, soak them in a water and vinegar solution (3 parts water to 1 part vinegar) for at least 20 minutes. Rinse well and air dry.

Every Few Weeks

Regularly check filters and replace them as needed.

Replace tubing at least monthly or when it can no longer be cleared adequately.

Replace catheters at least monthly.

Follow common troubleshooting tips

If your suction machine is not working, check these things:

- Is the machine plugged in?
- Is the switch turned on?
- Does the wall outlet the machine is plugged into have power?
- Is the collection bottle full?
- Is the tubing securely fastened?
- Is the collection bottle top securely fastened?
- Questions
- Refer to the manufacturer's website for further information about your suction machine. Call Intermountain Homecare if you experience any problems with your equipment.

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