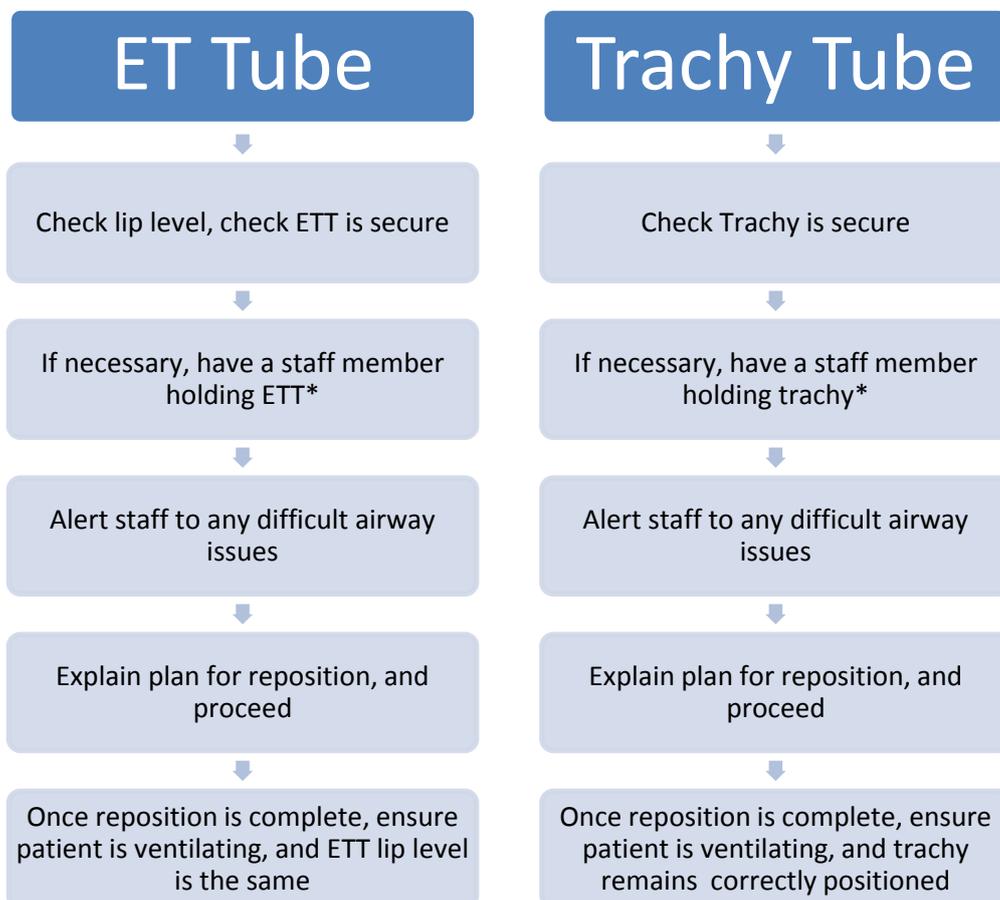


Guidelines for NON-CRITICAL CARE staff

Safe positioning of patient with an Endotracheal or Tracheostomy tube

- Any patient with an Endotracheal Tube or tracheostomy needs very careful repositioning to ensure the airway does not become dislodged or falls out.
- Repositioning of a patient with an ET or tracheostomy tube is always at least a two person job, but may often require more staff to perform this safely.
- All staff performing the reposition need to be made aware of the airway in situ, where the ETT is at the lips, and ensure that either the Anchorfast, ET tapes or trachy collar are attached securely.



*Staff members may need to hold ETT's or trachy's if the airway is known to be unstable, or more at risk of becoming dislodged.

Difficult Airways

Patients with known difficult airways will have a 'Difficult Airway Alert' poster above their bed, detailing the plan in case of unplanned loss of airway.

In an emergency: 'Anaesthetic emergency' call via 2222 / ENT via switchboard

Please file this form as the FIRST page in the patient's notes folder

Difficult Airway Alert

Name: _____ Operation: _____
 DOB: _____ Operation date: _____
 Hospital ID: _____

AIRWAY ASSESSMENT:
 Known/anticipated difficult intubation? Y/N... difficult intubation? Y/N
 Laryngoscopy grade: 1 2 3 4
 (If operation: laryngoscopy grade at end of operation: 1 2 3 4)

CURRENT AIRWAY:
 Endotracheal tube type: _____ Size _____
 Tracheostomy type: _____ Size: _____ Inner tube Y/N
 Tracheostomy: percutaneous/surgical
 How is tracheostomy secured? tie / sutured / stay sutures
 Intra-operative complications?
 Is there a patient specific tracheostomy box at the patient's bedside? Y/N
 Has the grade of laryngoscopy been recorded on Metavision? Y/N

PROPOSED PLAN FOR UNPLANNED LOSS OF AIRWAY

Plan A	
Plan B	
Plan C	

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In the event of an unplanned loss or airway, shout for help immediately, and apply oxygen

Patients with a Tracheostomy

- All patients with a tracheostomy have a blue box within their bedspace, which contains two tracheostomy tubes, one the same size as the patient's, and one a size smaller, a spare tracheostomy collar and dressing, a spare inner tube of the same size as the patient's trachy, and a bag of swabs for cleaning the inner tube.
- It is part of your safety checks to ensure this box is present and contains the correct items.

