

ETT Fixation, Suction and Airway Clearance Competencies**Method of Assessment:** Questioning and direct observation

5= Independent practice

4= Requires occasional guidance

3= Requires frequent guidance

2= Frequent errors not corrected by candidate

1= Candidate unable to proceed without step-by-step instruction

Observable Criteria	Assessment Outcome					Date	Assessor Signature
	5	4	3	2	1		
ETT Fixation (can be signed off by senior QIS ICU staff)							
• Is able to discuss/demonstrate correct positioning of NEO-fit on the baby's face, including use of 'lollipops'							
• Is able to discuss/demonstrate correct application of velcro strap around ETT to avoid ETT slippage							
• Is able to demonstrate alterations made to NEO-fit to accommodate size 2.5mm ETT (pushing metal clips closer together to securely clasp ETT)							
• Understands indications for NEObar use and can demonstrate correct measurement and fixation							
Suction Theory (can be signed off by senior QIS ICU staff)							
• Is able to discuss indications for suction							
• Is able to identify contraindications to suction							
• Is able to discuss complications/adverse effects of suction							
• Can identify infection control precautions to be undertaken when performing suction							
• Is able to discuss normal CO ₂ values and when to report values to the medical team							
• Has an understanding of hypercapnia and its effects and the importance of CO ₂ monitoring							

Version number and changes since last version:
 1.0 January 2013
 1.1 October 2017
 1.2 June 2018 – updated practice and inclusion of airway clearance techniques

Authors: Lindsey Macfarlane

Ratified by Neonatal Guideline Group: 11th June 2018

Review date: June 2021

Observable Criteria	Assessment Outcome					Date	Assessor Signature
	5	4	3	2	1		
Suction – nasal/oral (can be signed off by senior staff)							
• Is able to discuss correct depth for suction							
• Identifies correct size suction catheter to use							
• Demonstrates safe and effective suction technique							
Closed Circuit Suction (can be signed off by education team or senior QIS ICU staff who have completed their own competency)							
• Assesses need for suction including chest auscultation							
• If not already attached, replaces blue portex ETT end with a Y adapter and attaches correctly sized closed suction system							
• Demonstrates correct measurement of depth to insert suction catheter							
• Demonstrates a safe and effective suction procedure							
• Demonstrates safe and effective cleaning of the suction catheter							
• Assesses the need to repeat the procedure							
Open Suction (can be signed off by education team or senior QIS ICU staff who have completed their own competency)							
• Recognises which babies may require open over closed suction							
• Demonstrates correct sizing of catheter							
• Demonstrates correct measurement of depth to insert suction catheter							
• Demonstrates disconnection from the ventilator and a safe and effective suction technique with reconnection to ventilation							
• Demonstrates correct disposal and cleaning of equipment							
• Assesses the need to repeat the procedure							

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Observable Criteria	Assessment Outcome					Date	Assessor Signature
	5	4	3	2	1		
Documentation (can be signed off by senior staff)							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents all types of suction procedure on the appropriate observation charts and within nursing notes 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Escalates any concerns or abnormal findings to the medical team and documents the discussion 							

Enhanced skills once ICU orientation has been consolidated

Observable Criteria	Assessment Outcome					Date	Assessor Signature
	5	4	3	2	1		
Airway Clearance Techniques (only to be signed off by Neonatal Physiotherapist)							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is able to identify indications for manual techniques 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is able to identify contraindications and cautions 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is able to identify/manage hazards associated with manual techniques 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates how to prepare neonate for treatment 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates treatment appropriately 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitors, evaluates and documents treatment appropriately 							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates an awareness of own limitations and acknowledges when to seek further assistance 							

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