Patient Safety Practices - Setting Safe Suction Pressures

**Endotracheal Suction**

1. Occlude tubing **while** setting suction pressure\(^1\) or Push-To-Set\(^2\)
2. Check suction pressure before every suction event\(^1\)
3. Set Suction pressure to 150 mmHg or less for Adults\(^1\)
4. Set suction pressure to 80-100mmHg for Neonates\(^1\)

\(^1\) Excerpt from American Association of Respiratory Care 2010 published Guidelines Endotracheal Suctioning of Mechanically Ventilated Patients with Artificial Airways; Section 2.3

\(^2\) Use of Ohio Medical’s Push-To-Set\(^TM\) vacuum regulators automatically occludes the flow to patient tubing while setting pressures; Manual 8700-0001-000, Section 3, page 2 “Description and Specifications”

**Nasogastric Suction**

1. Occlude tubing **while** setting suction pressure or Push-To-Set\(^TM\)
2. Check suction pressure before every suction event
3. Set suction to Intermittent\(^3\)
4. Set pressure to 30-40mmHg\(^3\)

\(^3\) Use of Ohio Medical’s Push-To-Set\(^TM\) vacuum regulators automatically occludes the flow to patient tubing while setting pressures; Manual 8700-0001-000, Section 3, page 2 “Description and Specifications”

**Protecting Your Vacuum System**

1. Use of an overflow trap is recommended to protect the vacuum regulator, outlet, and vacuum system\(^4\)
2. Use of an auto-shut-off device (found in canister) is recommended\(^4\)
3. ¼” tubing is recommended to provide higher flows and lower pressures\(^4\)
4. Pre-use ‘Quick Check’ to remove poorly functioning regulators from patient use

‘Quick Check’ steps:

a) **Visually inspect for damage**

b) **Inspect gauge:** When “Off” gauge reads “Zero”. When vacuum is adjusted needle moves freely “Up & Down”

c) **When in Intermittent Mode:** Ensure that unit cycles “On” & “Off”, automatically

\(^4\) Smeltzer, Suzanne, Brenda Bare, Janice Hinkle, and Kenny Cheever. Brunner and Suddarth’s Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing: 12th edition (2009), page 1022


To learn more about suction safety and Push-To-Set\(^TM\) technology visit [www.ohiomedical.com](http://www.ohiomedical.com)