CARE PROCEDURE · PEDIATRIC COMPLEX CARE PLATFORM

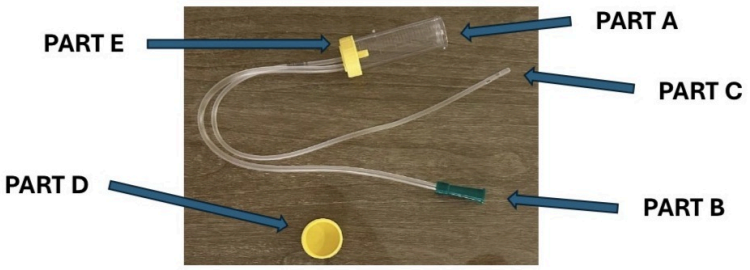
Tracheostomy Sputum Sampling

Step-by-step collection of a tracheal sputum sample using a mucus extractor

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Pediatric Complex Care Platform	1	Pediatric patients

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For healthcare professionals and trained caregivers. Follow local laboratory and infection-control protocols.



Mucus extractor parts

- **A** Sputum trap (collection container)
- **B** Green connector to the suction machine tubing
- **C** Suction catheter (keep tip sterile)
- **D** Sterile lid, to close the sample
- **E** Lid connecting the catheter to the trap

Steps

1. **Gather supplies:**
   - Clean gloves
   - Mucus extractor (parts A–E)
   - Suction machine
   - Sterile normal saline (if applicable)
2. Confirm that the suction machine is working properly.
3. Wash hands well.
4. Put on clean gloves.
5. Open the package of the mucus extractor.
6. Attach the suction machine tubing to the green-topped connector **B**.
7. Take the suction catheter **C** out of the package carefully, **without touching the tip**, to keep it sterile.
8. If the child has an HME, cap, speaking valve or ventilator connected to the tracheostomy, **remove it before suctioning**.
9. Suction the tracheostomy, repeating as needed to collect the sputum.
10. If no sputum is seen, squeeze sterile saline into the sterile lid **D**, then suction the saline with the catheter so that the sputum enters the sputum trap **A**.
11. **Reconnect** the HME, speaking valve or ventilator, if removed.
12. Remove the lid connected to the sputum trap **E** and close the trap with the sterile lid **D**.
13. Label the sample with the child's **identification information** and the **date and time** of collection, and clearly write **"tracheostomy sputum sample"**.
14. Send the sample to the laboratory **as soon as possible** (it can be stored in the fridge for up to 24 hours).
15. Remove gloves and wash hands.