

Oral Suctioning

Student's Name: _____

Date: _____

√	Performance Step(s)	Comment(s)
	Take BSI precautions.	
	Assemble suction equipment. Check that suction is working.	
	Place yourself at the patient's head.	
	Turn on the suction unit.	
	Place patient on his or her side, or turn head to the side if possible.	
	Open the patient's mouth using a cross finger technique, remove any airway that may be in place.	
	Slowly insert the catheter into the mouth with the curve or distal part of the catheter pointing towards the jaw.	<i>Insert NO further than the base of the tongue. If gag reflex begins, pull back slightly.</i>
	Begin suctioning by placing your finger over the hole in catheter tube.	
	Move the suction catheter from side to side in the oral cavity.	
	Never suction for more than 15 seconds at a time.	<i>No more than 5 seconds in children and infants.</i>
	If the catheter or tubing becomes clogged with materials, use sterile water or irrigation solution to clean or clear catheter and/or tubing.	
	Repeat the above technique as needed.	.
	Document your suction procedure.	