

P010

## ORAL SUCTIONING

### Oral Suctioning

The purpose of oral suctioning is to maintain a patent airway and improve oxygenation by removing mucous secretions and foreign material (vomit or gastric secretions) from the mouth and throat (oropharynx).

**Lifestyle Attendants/Support Workers must be accredited by a Registered Nurse to perform this procedure.**

### Suctioning Procedure for Lifestyle attendants/Support Workers:

- Ensure PPE is always worn
- Use clean technique for oral suctioning.
- Always inform Customer/Client of what you are doing
- Keep supplies readily available at the bedside and ensure suction is functioning in the event oral suctioning is required immediately. **Suction equipment should be checked daily and replaced as needed.**
- A fresh Y Suction Catheter to be used
- The procedure should not be rushed
- Know appropriate suctioning limits and the risks of applying excessive pressure or inadequate pressure.
- Avoid stimulating the gag reflex.
- Always perform a pre- and post-respiratory assessment to monitor Customer for improvement.
- Consider other possible causes of respiratory distress and Call 000 if Client's condition is not improved post suctioning.
- If an abnormal side effect occurs (e.g., increased difficulty in breathing, hypoxia, discomfort, worsening vital signs, or bloody sputum), Call 000 and start CPR as needed.
- Follow the plan. The plan is to include actions on any incident that is outside the scope of practice or any situation and or emergency. A Doctor or Clinical Nurse is to be contacted immediately for guidance and assistance. All incidents are to be documented.