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## Respiratory Therapy & Medical Equipment Services

*HCS... The Leading Company in the Merrimack Valley,  
North Shore and Southern New Hampshire*

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# **Patient Instructions** **Suction/Aspirator Machine**

THIS UNIT IS TO BE USED ONLY AS PRESCRIBED BY A PHYSICIAN.

### **SUCTION/ASPIRATOR MACHINE OPERATION:**

1. Wash hands.
2. Place the unit on a flat sturdy surface.
3. Attach the 18-inch suction tubing from the unit inlet to the collection bottle (vacuum side).
4. Attach the six-foot suction tubing to collection bottle inlet (patient side).
5. Plug the unit into a grounded electrical outlet.
6. Turn the unit On.
7. Create suction by pinching or covering the end of tubing and read vacuum pressure on the gauge.
8. Adjust pressure to appropriate vacuum setting:
  - A. Adults 80 to 120 mmHg
  - B. Children 80 to 100 mm Hg
  - C. Infants 60 to 100 mm Hg
9. Attach suction catheter to open end of six-foot tubing using clean technique.
10. Suction according to the clinical suctioning procedures provided by the hospital or home health nursing service.
11. Be sure to observe safe fill line on the collection jar.

12. If overflow does occur, immediately turn the unit Off. If liquids are drawn into the trap jar directly under the vacuum gauge, remove the jar, rinse clean, dry completely (including cork ball), and replace.
13. Empty collection bottle into the toilet.
14. Wash hands.

**CLEANING AND DISINFECTING THE SUCTION/ASPIRATOR MACHINE:**

1. Keep a small amount of vinegar in the suction bottle to cover the bottom.
2. Daily: Wash suction bottle and connecting tubing in warm soapy water. Rinse well.
3. Weekly: Soak pre-washed bottle in a solution of one part vinegar and one part water for 20 minutes. Rinse well and air dry.

**CLEANING AND REUSING SUCTION/ASPIRATOR CATHETERS:**

1. Rinse catheter with tap water to remove secretions.
2. Wash catheter in hot soapy water using mild detergent.
3. Rinse catheter with tap water. Attach to suction machine to remove water, if necessary.
4. Soak catheter in a solution of one part vinegar and one-part water for one hour.
5. Rinse well with sterile water. Boiling a large pan of water for 20 minutes can make sterile water. Store in refrigerator in closed container. Air dry catheters on a clean towel.