

ADULT INPATIENT TRACHEOSTOMY CARE TEAM

- A tracheostomy tube (trach tube) is an artificial airway tube.
- A trach tube is put into the front of your neck.

WHO IS MY CARE TEAM?

Patients with a tracheostomy tube who are admitted to hospital will be seen by the **Adult Inpatient Tracheostomy Care Team**. Your care team will:

- Check your condition.
- Clear your tube by suctioning.
- Change your tube if needed. Sometimes they use a small camera to help.
- Cap the trach tube so you can talk when you are well enough.
- Check if you can swallow foods when you are well enough.
- Take the tube out if it is no longer needed (in some cases).

Your care team has doctors, respiratory therapists, and other healthcare professionals.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

You and your loved ones should learn how to care for your trach tube. It is very helpful to learn how to suction your airway. Here is where you can learn more:

- Ask your Respiratory Therapist (RT). Your RT will visit you often while you are in hospital.
- Visit the Ontario Provincial Long-Term Ventilation Strategy website at <https://ontariolongtermventilation.com/index.html>
- Watch the videos at <https://ontariolongtermventilation.com/patient-or-caregiver-e-learning-modules.html>
- Watch the videos at <https://www.westpark.org/en/LTVCOE/LearningModules>
- Watch the videos at <https://www.canventottawa.ca/>

The hospital has wifi. Click on the network called “MGH Guest Network”. You do not need a password.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF A TRACH TUBE?

- Trach tubes are life-saving.
- Minor side effects are local irritation, secretions, or infection.
- The tube can come out or be hard to put back in but this is less common.
- Rare side effects are serious bleeding or damage to your airway.
- You should talk to your healthcare providers about your risks and benefits of a trach tube.

If you are discharged home with a trach tube, please review how to take care of your trach tube. Please review your outpatient follow-up plan.