

<b>UTMB RESPIRATORY CARE SERVICES</b> <b>PROCEDURE - Measurement of Endotracheal or Trach</b> <b>Tube Cuff Pressure</b>	Policy 7.3.48 Page 1 of 2
<b>Measurement of Endotracheal or Trach Tube Cuff Pressure</b> Formulated: 02/80	<b>Effective:</b> 11/01/94 <b>Revised :</b> 08/21/23 <b>Reviewed:</b> 08/21/23

## Measurement of Endotracheal or Trach Tube Cuff Pressure

<b>Purpose</b>	To standardize measurement of pressure being exerted upon the tracheal wall by the endotracheal or tracheostomy tube cuff.
<b>Scope</b>	Respiratory Care Service monitors intra-cuff pressures of patients with endotracheal and tracheostomy tubes during ventilation to minimize the possibility of tracheal wall damage. <b>Accountability</b> Applies to all Respiratory Care Services with understanding of age specific requirements of patient population.
<b>Indications</b>	For measurement and adjustments of endotracheal or tracheostomy tube cuff pressures.
<b>Goals</b>	To maintain pressures exerted to limits below 30 cm H <sub>2</sub> O and prevent damage to trachea.
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cufflator</li> <li>• AG cuffill manometer</li> </ul>

### Procedure

1	Identify patient using two identifiers.
2	Assemble equipment. Wash hands. Check patient chart for previous pressure reading.
3	Attach measurement device to cuff inflation valve.
4	Read cuff pressure
5	If pressure greater than 30 cm H <sub>2</sub> O, release some air volume in cuff with syringe. If using cufflator squeeze bulb to increase pressure or decrease pressure by pressing the red button.
6	If unable to maintain a minimal leak with a cuff pressure less than 30 cm H <sub>2</sub> O, contact the physician immediately and document in Epic.

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**Procedure Continued**

Step	Action
7	Remove measurement device from inflation valve when measurements are completed.
8	Cuff pressure checks are to be made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With each ventilator assessment.</li> <li>• And/or with a change in tube or placement of tube.</li> </ul>
9	Document cuff pressure in Epic, per RCS Policy # 7.1.1.
10	Cufflators used will be decontaminated on site with the appropriate bactericidal agent between patients use. AG cuffill are single patient use.
11	Notify appropriate physician if cuff will not maintain seal and requires repeated inflations.

**Infection Control**

Follow procedures outlined in Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures #2.24; Respiratory Care Services.  
<http://www.utmb.edu/policy/hcepidem/search/02-24.pdf>

**References**

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Plevak DJ, Ward JJ; Airway Management. In: Burton GG, Hodgkin JE, Ward JJ, Eds. Respiratory Care: A Guide to Clinical Practice. 4 ed. Philadelphia: JB Lippincott; 1997.

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