

**PEORIA AREA EMS SYSTEM  
PEDIATRIC PREHOSPITAL CARE MANUAL**

**Pediatric Tracheostomy  
Protocol**

With today's technology and improving home health care, more critical care patients are being sent home early. Home health care professionals and family members can duplicate the care the child receives in the hospital. This allows the patient to return home, spending less time in the hospital. EMS is activated when there is a problem with complex medical equipment, or the patient relapses into a more critical condition. EMS providers need to gain knowledge of critical care medicine not previously needed.

**First Responder Care**

First Responder Care should be focused on ensuring a patent airway.

1. Render initial care in accordance with the *Routine Pediatric Care Protocol*.
2. **Oxygen:** 15 L/min via tracheostomy collar.
3. Assess work of breathing.
4. Assess abnormal airway sounds.
5. Place patient in a position of comfort.
6. If tracheostomy tube is obstructed with secretions:
  - a. Suction with whistle-tip catheter.
  - b. Repeat suction after removing inner catheter of tracheostomy tube.
  - c. Have caregiver change tracheostomy tube.
7. If the airway continues to be obstructed or if ventilatory effort is inadequate, **ventilate with 100% oxygen** by attaching a BVM to the tracheostomy tube.
8. If the tracheostomy tube is still not patent, ventilate **mask to mouth** while covering the stoma.
  - ➡ The balloon on the trach must be deflated prior to attempting mask to mouth ventilation.
9. Initiate ALS intercept as soon as possible.

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**BLS Care**

BLS Care should be directed at conducting a thorough patient assessment and ensuring that the child has a patent airway.

1. BLS Care includes all components of *First Responder Care*.

**ILS Care**

ILS Care should be directed at continuing or establishing care, conducting a thorough patient assessment and ensuring a patent airway.

1. ILS Care includes all components of *First Responder Care/BLS Care*.

**ALS Care**

ALS Care should be directed at continuing or establishing care, conducting a thorough patient assessment and ensuring a patent airway.

1. ALS Care includes all components of *FR/BLS/ILS Care*.
2. If the airway is still obstructed:
  - a. Insert appropriately sized ETT in stoma.
  - b. Reassess patency of the airway.