## **GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF VELCRO TRACHEOSTOMY TAPES**

Some children wear Velcro tracheostomy tapes to hold their tracheostomy tubes in place. The reason(s) for using velcro tracheostomy tapes is individual to each child and **must be authorised by a consultant.** 

For example:-

- To improve skin integrity around the stoma site.
- At the child's / parents request.
- To allow single parent changing where necessary

A risk assessment **MUST** take place before deciding whether Velcro tapes are appropriate – this must include not only assessing the child's individual needs but also the environment in which the child is being cared.

### POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN COMPLETING RISK ASSESSMENT BELOW

Each child is individual in their development, ability and understanding and as such each child must be assessed to ascertain whether velcro tracheostomy tapes are in their best interests or not e.g.:

- A child who does not have understanding of the importance of his / her tracheostomy tube may be able
- to grab it and pull it out accidentally therefore velcro tapes are not suitable.
- A child may not have the understanding but is unable to move their limbs due to paralysis therefore the child will not be able to pull the tube out accidentally so velcro tapes may be suitable.
- A child may have the understanding but is unable to move due to paralysis therefore velcro tapes may be suitable.

• Children who wear velcro tracheostomy tapes must be highly visible by a nurse / carer parent. If not being continuously monitored, unless otherwise clearly documented in the medical notes

### DOCUMENTATION

- Consultant/ ENT authorization in the child's medical notes.
- Parental agreement.
- Continuous monitoring as per trust guideline.
- Complete assessment section below specifying chosen Velcro fasteners
- Completion of Velcro Tape care plan
- Nursing staff to document they have checked the tightness of tapes 4 hourly and changed them daily as per care plan.

#### For maximum safety, velcro tapes are for single use only and should not be washed and re-used

(American Thoracic Society: Care of the child with a chronic tracheostomy, consensus paper. American Journal of Respiratory Critical Care Medicine Vol. 161 pp 297-308, 2000).

# **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_\_ is safe to use Velcro tapes for their tracheostomy tube consultant agrees [\_\_\_\_\_\_ parents/carers agree \_\_\_\_\_

Correctly fitted Velcro tapes:	Rusch Paediatric ☐ Adult ☐ Marpac Neo-Natal paediatric □		
	Other		
Completed by	Date		

# ONLY TO BE COMPLETED BY SPECIALIST NURSE OR ENT TEAM

Children with Tracheostomies using Velcro Tapes					
Patient name:		Hospital number:			
Date care plan	commenced:		DOB: /	Ι	Consultant:
Name of nursePRINT SIGN STAMPcommencing care plan:				Date care plan commenced: / /	
<b>Problem:</b> . Velcro tapes are being used to secure the tracheostomy tube and without the appropriate care could become loose, resulting in tracheostomy tube becoming dislodged.					
Aims: For Velcro tapes to remain secure maintaining a safe and secure airway					
<ol> <li>NURSING ACTIONS: *delete if not appropriate.</li> <li>Ensure manufacturer's instructions are followed as to correct and safe usage also refer to trust guidelines.</li> <li>Allocated nurse to check Velcro tapes are secure at the commencement of each shift and at regular 4 hourly intervals throughout the shift, documenting appropriately.</li> <li>Velcro tapes must be changed daily.</li> <li>To observe tapes during all nursing cares including dressing, changing position and bedding changes, to ensure they remain secure and reduce the chance of accidental decannulation of tracheostomy tube.</li> <li>They are single use and should not be washed and reused as Velcro will become worn and therefore less effective.</li> </ol>					
Additional cares to be included: This should include negotiated care with parents around best time to give feeds, likes and dislikes, drinks choice and utensils used, after care etc and dietitians instructions. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11.					