## Kent, Surrey, Sussex Critical Care Network

essen	ust be able to demonstrate through discussion tial knowledge of (and its application to your vised practice):	Competency fully achieved Date/sign
•	Can discuss the mechanism of a one-way valve in use	
	with a tracheostomy	
•	Can explain benefits (physical and psychological) and	
	contraindications	
•	Can explain necessary selection criteria and suitable	
	ventilator settings prior to valve use	
•	can discuss importance of managing	
	subglottic/above-cuff secretions and how to minimise	
	risk, especially prior to/during cuff deflation	
•	Identifies possible airway problems/signs of	
	intolerance and how these will manifest	
•	Can discuss what ventilatory changes are required	
	when one-way valve in situ with mechanical	
	ventilation and how the patient should be monitored	
•	Identifies when use of one-way valve should be	
	discontinued	
	ust be able to undertake the following in a safe and	
profes	ssional manner:	
•	Assembles necessary equipment and explains	
	procedure to patient/gains consent	
•	Assesses and optimises patient respiratory status	
	(including patient conscious level and positioning)	
•	Performs oral/subglottic/tracheal suction prior to cuff	
	deflation	
•	With assistance of second professional, slowly	
	deflates cuff alongside synchronous tracheal suction,	
	as indicated, considering above-cuff secretion load.	
	Reassesses airway	
•	Confirms air passing through upper airway	
•	Correctly places one-way valve and reassesses	
	airway/respiratory status	
•	Makes necessary changes to ventilator mode and	
	alarms as per individual unit policy, when used in situ	
	with mechanical ventilation	
•	Indicates what measures are in place to ensure	
	communication regarding change of patient status is	
	known to wider unit team (bed signs/tracheostomy	
	cuff label etc)	
•	Demonstrates safe supervision and reassessment of	
	patient throughout period of one-way valve use and	
	documents accurately	
•	Able to describe management of one-way valve during	
	nebulisation procedures	
•	Safely removes speaking valve at end of agreed	
	period/if patient not tolerating or is fatigued	

KSS ACCN Tracheostomy/One-way Speaking valve MDT Competency

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•	Reinflates cuff, returns ventilator to previous agreed	
	settings with appropriate alarms	
•	Reassesses airway/respiratory status	
•	Assesses effectiveness of intervention and escalates	
	any concerns appropriately	

R Maley, Critical Care Practice Educator, Conquest Hospital, ESHT

S Stirzaker Practice Development Sister, Frimley and Wexham Park Hospitals, FHFT