

How to Care for a Laryngectomy Stoma

Patients with stomas will have been taught how to clean their stomas at the hospital where the surgery was performed. Every patient's stoma care may be slightly different, but the core care remains the same.

- If the patient has a voice prosthesis, please inspect during stoma care. See care protocols for "How to Clean a Voice Prosthesis" and "Dislodged Voice Prosthesis" and notify SLT as needed.
- Clean around the stoma with a damp cloth and warm water at least once a day. This may be more depending on the amount of secretions. Avoid dropping water into the stoma as this will make the patient cough. Plastic tweezers may be required to remove any loose crusts or secretions. A torch may be needed to clearly visualise the stoma.
- When a patient with a laryngectomy coughs, secretions come out of the stoma instead of the mouth. When the stoma is open, encourage the patient to cover it with a tissue when coughing. If there are any secretions left around the stoma, please ensure the skin is cleaned. If the patient is unable to expectorate the secretions, you may use suction to remove them.
- The stoma should always be covered whether it is a Buchanan bib, other stoma protector/cover, or a stoma baseplate and HME. What a patient wears will depend on the recommendations given at the hospital where the surgery took place.
- The stoma should receive daily humidification, usually via a nebuliser. The number of nebulisers used will vary from patient to patient, however they should be increased if the quantity of the secretions increases and/or they change in consistency/colour. Please liaise with physiotherapy for patient specific advice.
- The use of a laryngectomy tube varies from patient to patient. However if concerns arise that a stoma is getting smaller, please insert a laryngectomy tube and notify SLT for review. You may require a lubricant to insert the tube.
- A stoma shower shield should be worn when taking a shower to keep water away from the stoma.



Voice prosthesis in situ



Missing voice prosthesis



Buchanan Bib and Stoma Protector/Cover



Stoma baseplate and HME cassette



Laryngectomy tubes



Laryngectomy tube & HME cassette in situ



Stoma shower shield