

- Maintenance of ET tube cuff pressure adequate to prevent aspiration of secretions.
- Minimizing transportation outside of the ICU for other procedures.
- Use of noninvasive ventilation when possible.
- Every 2 to 4 hours, follow unit mouth care policy.
- Unless contraindicated, elevate head of bed to 30 to 45 degrees.
- Before repositioning patient, always drain ventilator circuit.
- For patients older than 12 years old, when possible, use ET tube with dorsal lumen above ET cuff to help suction secretions above the cuff.
- Evaluate daily for possible extubation.
- Avoid reintubation.
- Infants in supine position (infant lying on back with ET tube held upright in the vertical position) had increased colony counts or new organisms in tracheal aspirate than infants in lateral position (infant lying on side with ET tube at same level as the trachea) ([Aly, Badawy, El-Kholy, et al, 2008](#)).
- Staff education on VAP and improvements to practice changes can have a substantial impact on reducing VAP ([Garland, 2010](#); [Richardson, Hines, Dixon, et al, 2010](#); [Turton, 2008](#)).
- A 7-day versus 3-day ventilator circuit change was not associated