

	Department:  <b>Respiratory Services</b>	Date Originated: <b>June 2009</b>  Date Reviewed/Revised: <b>April 2011</b>
<b>PROCEDURE</b>	Topic: <u>Neonatal</u> – Securing Neonatal Endotracheal Tubes (Respiratory Therapy)  Number: B-00-12-12088	Related Links:

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## APPLICABLE SITES:

St. Paul's Hospital

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

The post-insertion position of a neonatal endotracheal tube will be verified with a chest radiograph. Optimal placement of the endotracheal tube in neonates is between T<sub>2</sub> – T<sub>3</sub> of the thoracic vertebrae as viewed on the chest radiograph. The following table provides a guide for estimating depth of endotracheal tube insertion based on body weight:

WEIGHT (grams)	DEPTH FROM UPPER LIP (cm)
<750	6
1000	7
2000	8
3000	9
4000	10

**NOTE:** Neonatal endotracheal tube position will be recorded **AT THE LIP**.

**NOTE:** AN ASSISTANT IS REQUIRED WHEN SECURING OR REPOSITIONING NEONATAL ENDOTRACHEAL TUBES.

## EQUIPMENT:

- Neobar securing device (colour-coded)
  - Purple: < 800 g
  - Yellow: > 800 g
- Cloth tape ½" (approx. 2 inch length)
- 2x2 gauze pads (moistened with saline)

- Scissors
- Tegaderm dressing
- Stethoscope
- Flow-inflating resuscitator with appropriately sized mask
- Emergency intubation equipment available

## PROCEDURE:

1. Using the saline moistened 2 x 2 gauze pads wipe the surface of the cheeks where the adhesive pads of the Neobar will make contact with the skin, and allow to dry.
2. Prepare the appropriate coloured Neobar by exposing the adhesive pads and centre over the mouth ensuring that the endotracheal tube is inferior to the Neobar.
3. Press firmly on the adhesive pads to enable the Neobar to adhere to the skin surface.
4. Using a 2-inch length of the ½" cloth tape, wrap once around the endotracheal tube, and then wrap around both the endotracheal tube and Neobar 2 times.
5. Cut the Tegaderm dressing in half and apply one portion over each side of the Neobar pad to reinforce the stability of the device.
6. Auscultate for bilateral air entry and document tube position at the lip (ATL) on the respiratory flowsheet.
7. Obtain CXR and confirm endotracheal tube position is between T<sub>2</sub> – T<sub>3</sub>.

