

How the NTSP resources were developed

These NTSP resources are for medical, nursing, allied health staff and students. There are resources for patients available separately.

This project started with a group of four Intensive Care Doctors working in Manchester, UK, who wanted to improve the management of patients with tracheostomies. We had identified recurrent themes common to tracheostomy and laryngectomy emergencies and recognised that in order to improve care, educational resources and innovative ways to teach them were urgently required. We initially sought the help of other colleagues in Critical Care, Anaesthesia, ENT surgery and maxillofacial surgery, forming a multi-disciplinary, multi-site working party to develop these resources. This group grew to incorporate input from nursing, physiotherapy and speech therapy colleagues, along with patients and patient groups and other medical and allied health professionals. A short video describing the origins of the project can be viewed at the url provided in the footnote.¹

We have focused our attentions in two key areas: the emergency management algorithms and improving routine care by developing educational resources

aimed at preventing neck-breathing patients developing life-threatening emergencies.

We developed and tested our emergency guidance with high-fidelity simulators using specific scenarios to ensure that nursing staff, doctors and allied health professionals could follow our algorithms. We have also introduced this guidance in a number of different trusts in the UK and developed the project incorporating multi-site, multi-speciality peer review and feedback.

The resources are supported by an extensive e-learning package, developed in partnership with the UK Department of Health's e-Learning for Healthcare project and the Royal College of Anaesthetist's e-Learning in Anaesthesia project. We have provided as much information as possible in video, diagram and schematic format, with many links from the text of this manual direct to YouTube videos and the resources of our website.² This was in response to feedback received when we started to disseminate this information more widely. A lot of tracheostomy-related procedures are best learned when you can actually see someone doing it – either at the bedside locally, or via some of the videos we have

¹<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFmbDca4Dxc>

²<http://www.tracheostomy.org.uk/>

provided. The resources in the manual have arisen from extensive collaboration between local, national and international stakeholder groups and have built on previously published guidelines, resources and expert opinion. We saw our role as putting together the individual pieces of the jigsaw that often existed in respect to specialised areas of tracheostomy and laryngectomy care.

The various resources have been peer reviewed by a number of different processes, including open peer review of draft resources posted on our website and the websites of a number of partner organisations. The emergency guidelines, algorithms, bedhead signs and supporting manuscript have been endorsed by the Difficult Airway Society, Intensive Care Society, the Royal College of Anaesthetists, ENT UK, British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, College of Emergency Medicine, Resuscitation Council UK, Royal College of Nursing, Royal College of Speech

and Language Therapists, Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Respiratory Care, National Association of Laryngectomy Clubs and the National Patient Safety Agency. There have also been contributions from The British Laryngological Association and the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine. The NTSP manual has been reviewed by many of these groups, either formally or informally, and also revised by a multi-disciplinary NTSP editorial board. Finally, the e-Learning for Healthcare resources have been reviewed by e-Learning Anaesthesia at the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

Full details of the literature, review process and development of these guidelines are described in McGrath et al.'s (2012) manuscript³ in *Anaesthesia*.

³[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Multidisciplinary guidelines for the management of tracheostomy and laryngectomy airway emergencies](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Multidisciplinary+guidelines+for+the+management+of+tracheostomy+and+laryngectomy+airway+emergencies).