

Tracheostomy teams: A multi-disciplinary approach to improving care

Patients with a tracheostomy almost always have complex care needs that involve multiple disciplines. They are often a vulnerable population and at risk of adverse events, especially during periods of transition from one clinical environment to another. Improving patient outcomes requires the implementation of what are often fairly simple principles and strategies into complicated systems. Achieving this is likely to be best done through a team-based approach that exploits the skills and expertise of a multidisciplinary team-based approach that also incorporates patient and family feedback into all aspects of care. The Tracheostomy Review and Management Team (TRAMS) is based at Austin Health is a foundation member of the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative (GTC). These groups have developed practical strategies for improving care, reducing risk and enhancing patient engagement in a way that is cost-effective and sustainable. Through the use of GTC benchmarking tools, there is potential to improve standards of care widely and learn about successful initiatives wherever they may originate.