



# Using Heated Wire Circuits

## To Learn More

- Home Care Services, 425-482-4000, toll-free 800-888-4429
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- [www.seattlechildrens.org](http://www.seattlechildrens.org)

## Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers 206-987-2280 (TTY)

When your child is on a heated tracheostomy collar circuit, there are important reasons to keep the circuit clean and maintained. Follow these instructions to reduce the risk of infection. The following are Home Care Services' recommendations for safe handling of the ventilator.

### Every week:

- Change the humidifier water chamber.
- Clean the resuscitator bag, or change the filter on the disposable resuscitator bag, if one is used.
- Clean the swivel tracheostomy adapter, omni flex adapter or flex tube on bedside circuit.
- Check the bacteria filters. Change if needed.

### Every month:

- Change the bedside heated wire circuit.
- Change the portable heated wire circuit.
- NOTE: Change and clean the swivel tracheostomy adapter, omni flex adapter or flex tube each day if circuit is used.
- Change the bacteria filters.

### Additional information:

- **DO NOT** throw away the little adapter that hooks the oxygen tubing to the heated-wire circuit. A new one does not come with the circuit.
- If using another heat moisture exchange (HME) device (Artificial Nose) while your child is off the tracheostomy collar, the HME needs to be changed and thrown away every day. These cannot be cleaned, because if they get wet, it may cause your child to work harder to breathe.
- **Because the water is infectious waste, it should never be drained back into the humidifier reservoir.**

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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