

# Using a Passy-Muir Valve with Your Tracheostomy

Follow your doctor's plan to increase wearing time.

Your doctor has prescribed use of this valve for:

\_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ times per day

## What is a Passy-Muir valve?

A Passy-Muir valve (PMV) is a swallowing and speaking valve worn on the tracheostomy tube's opening.



Passy-Muir valves

## How does the PMV work?

The PMV has a special one-way valve. It works by allowing your child to breathe in through their trach tube and breathe out through their upper airway. When your child breathes out, the air passes through their vocal cords so that they can work on speech and swallowing.

## Will my child be able to use the PMV?

First your child will need to be evaluated by a doctor or respiratory therapist to make sure they are ready to use the PMV.

This PMV is for use in a child who:

- Is awake, alert and oriented (do not wear while sleeping)
- Has a clear, unblocked upper airway
- Is medically stable
- Is able to tolerate complete cuff deflation or has an uncuffed trach
- Is able to manage secretions

### To Learn More

- Respiratory Care  
206-987-2258
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- [seattlechildrens.org](http://seattlechildrens.org)

### Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your 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.

### Steps for placing the valve

1. Have your child sit in an upright position.
2. Make sure your child is comfortable and breathing normally.
3. Completely deflate the tracheostomy tube cuff, if your child has a cuffed trach tube.
4. Suction secretions until the airway is clear (may require multiple passes with the suction catheter).
5. Place the PMV on the tracheostomy tube opening.
6. Keep a close watch while your child's PMV is in place and watch for increased work of breathing, poor color or drop in oxygen level (O2 sats).

### What are the warning signs to remove the device?

Your child must be monitored and directly observed while using the PMV. Remove the valve from your child immediately if:

- It makes a clicking noise
- At any time your child becomes anxious or has a hard time breathing
- You see changes in heart rate, breathing rate or oxygen saturation; or increased respiratory effort

### Can I use the PMV with oxygen?

Yes. Oxygen can be added by using an adapter (see image on first page).

### Humidification

The PMV does not provide humidification for your child's trach. Add humidification by using the heated mist collar or by adding normal saline drops directly to the trach (2 to 3 drops of normal saline every 30 minutes). Lack of humidification while using the PMV may cause thicker secretions.

### Can I give nebulized medicine with a valve in place?

No. Be sure to remove the PMV before giving a nebulizer or MDI treatment.

### How do you clean the Passy-Muir valve?

1. Once a day, swish valve in soapy, warm water (not hot water).
2. Rinse valve well in warm running water.
3. Allow valve to air dry completely on a paper towel before placing in storage container. Do not apply heat to dry valve.
4. Do NOT use hot water, peroxide, bleach, vinegar, rubbing alcohol, brushes or cotton swabs to clean the valve.