

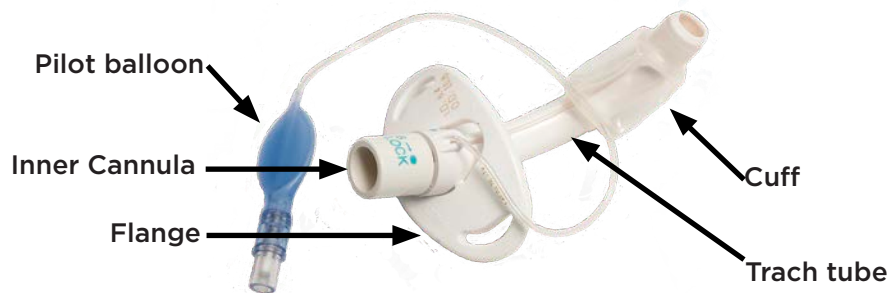
Shiley Trach Air Cuff

What is a cuff?

The cuff is an inflatable area near the end of the trach tube (see photo). The cuff is used to help direct the breaths from the ventilator to your child's lungs.

How do I check the amount of air in the cuff?

Deflate cuff first



Cuff deflation and inflation are done while the trach is in your child. The photos below simply show how the cuff works and are for education purposes only.



1 Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer then put on clean gloves.



2 Use a Luer-Lok tip type syringe. Make sure that the plunger is all the way in like in the photo.



3 Push and twist syringe onto the pilot balloon.



4 Pull back the plunger to get all the air out of the cuff until it's fully deflated.



5 Clamp on tight onto the top of the syringe and plunger so the air won't go back in.*
*The syringe will show resistance and will try to move the plunger back down to zero.



6 Hold the pilot balloon and twist off the Luer-Lok tip syringe.

7 Repeat these steps to verify full cuff deflation.

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Inflate the cuff



1

Pull back on the plunger to the prescribed amount of air.



2

Attach the Luer-Lok syringe back on the pilot balloon and slowly inflate all the air.



3

This is what an inflated cuff looks like.



4

Hold the pilot balloon and twist off the syringe.

How often do I need to check the cuff?

Check the cuff twice daily. Once in the morning and then in the evening to Make sure that the cuff has the correct amount of air in the cuff.

How much air do I put in the cuff?

This is determined by the Respiratory Therapist.

If your child is on a ventilator, Bipap, CPAP or Cough Assist, they will find the amount of air needed in the cuff to provide good chest rise with a small amount of leak around the trach tube. This small amount of leakage is good. And it confirms that a small amount of air can get around the cuff and that the cuff is not overinflated or pushing against the inside of the trachea. This leak is called minimal leak value To find the minimum amount of air, the RT will watch the chest rise, check the size of breaths on the ventilator and listen for an audible leak and bubbles around the trach tube at their stoma. Some children may need to have a little more air added to the cuff to prevent the leak. This is called the minimal occlusion value.

To Learn More

- Home Care Services 425-482-4000, toll-free 800-888-4429
- Respiratory Care 206-987-2258
- 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.

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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