



How to Fit a Metal Beaded Chain Trach Necklace

The metal beaded chain trach necklace pictured here works best for active children over 2 years old.

Who can use a metal beaded chain trach necklace?

The metal beaded chain trach necklace works best for active mobile children over 2 years old. If your child is bed-ridden, a beaded chain will cause skin breakdown around the neck from sweating.



Your child's skin will often be healthier with the beaded chain because it allows for more air flow around the neck.

Supplies:

- One or two 20-inch metal beaded chains
- Metal-cutting scissors or wire cutters (used only for this purpose)
- Gloves

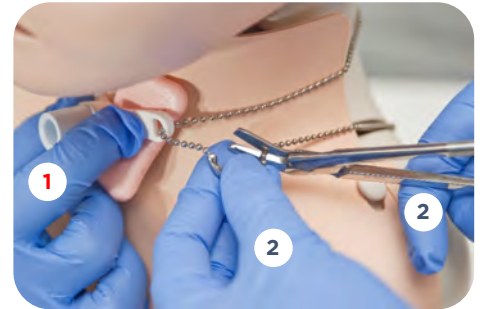


Your respiratory team will provide you with your first beaded chain and help you fit your child the first time. Additional beaded chains can be purchased online.

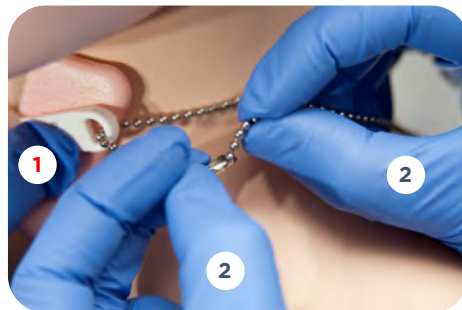
Fitting the chain on your child

Use 2 trained caregivers and follow these steps to place the beaded chain on your child:

1. Have your child sit up comfortable and stable



2. Have caregiver ① hold the trach in place.
3. Have caregiver ② thread the beaded chain through the hole on one side of the trach flange, then around the back of the neck, and finally through the hole on the side of the other flange.
4. To adjust the fit, cut beads off the end of the beaded chain, a few beads at a time. Cut to a length that allows two fingers to fit between the child's neck and the beaded chain.



5. Complete the loop by connecting the barrel clasp to the last bead.
6. Make sure to slide in the stoma dressing under the trach flanges and test for correct fit.

Check for a comfortable fit for the child:

- Fit must allow the child to cough.
- If the beaded chain is too tight it will cause discomfort and skin breakdown.
- If the beaded chain is too loose the trach could come out.
- The child will need to be re-fitted as they grow.

To Learn More

- Respiratory Care
206-987-2258
- Ask your child's
healthcare provider
- 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.

When do I need to change or remove the chain?

You will need to remove the beaded chain before each trach change by undoing the clasp. Have a pair of metal cutting scissors or wire cutters kept in your essential equipment to cut the chain in case of emergency. Also, keep an extra fitted metal beaded chain in case the one your child is using becomes damaged. Have an extra supply of new chains for when your child needs to be re-fitted as they grown.

How is stoma care done with a beaded chain?

Stoma care can now be done by 1 trained caregiver. This is because the beaded chain stays on your child. You will only need to remove the chain for trach changes. Clean around your child's neck during bath time using a washcloth and then use cotton swabs to clean and dry around the stoma. Then apply dressings and medicines as prescribed by your child's doctor.