

# Repositioning an Endotracheal Tube

## Step 1:

- Assess and document the ETT depth (cm mark @ lips, gums or teeth)

## Step 2:

- Deep Oropharyngeal Suction
- May use long clear suction catheter provided in oral kit or red rubber catheter

## Step 3:

- Complete mouth care as outlined in Critical Care Procedure Manual, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (2013)

<https://www.medicalcenter.virginia.edu/intranet/pnso/practiceportal/focusareas.html#vap-gl>

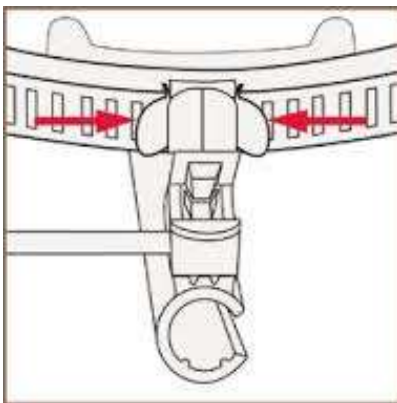
(Link→Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia→ET tube and Oral Care)

## Step 4:

- Reposition the tube-Left, Right and Center
- Squeeze shuttle tabs on the outer edges to move in either direction along the tube track

## Step 5:

- Assess and document ETT depth (cm @ lips, gums or teeth)



## Teaching Notes:

- If the patient has a difficult airway have RT assist with repositioning the ET tube.
- Ensure that the ET tube is not only repositioned at different points at the lips but on the tongue as well.
- If at any time a cuff leak is suspected, have RT measure the cuff pressure.