

# Advanced Life Support Patient Care Standards Version 4.0 Refresher

## Endotracheal and Tracheostomy Suctioning Medical Directive Summary of Changes

The following is intended to provide you with a summary that reflects the changes to the ALS PCS v4.0. Please refer to the following additional resources for further clarification as needed:

- **Advanced Care Life Support Patient Care Standards v4.0**  
Link: [www.lhsc.on.ca/About\\_Us/Base\\_Hospital\\_Program/Medical\\_Directives/index.htm](http://www.lhsc.on.ca/About_Us/Base_Hospital_Program/Medical_Directives/index.htm)
- **Endotracheal and Tracheostomy Suctioning Refresher Podcast**  
Link: <https://youtu.be/N81lcyIH2LE>
- **SWORBHP – 2016-2017 Mandatory – PCP/ACP in the Paramedic Portal - Online Training**  
Link: [www.paramedicportalontario.ca](http://www.paramedicportalontario.ca)

### What has changed?

- A new medical directive has been added to the ALS PCS v4.0: Endotracheal and Tracheostomy Suctioning Medical Directive (for both PCPs and ACPs).

### Why has it changed?

- There appears to be an increase in prevalence of patients with tracheostomies and stomas requiring assistance/suctioning.
- Clarity and direction was sought for paramedics faced with patients who require endotracheal or tracheostomy suctioning

### How does it affect paramedic practice?

- Paramedics are now better able to provide appropriate airway management for patients with tracheostomies or stomas.

**REMINDER THAT THE IN-FORCE DATE IS JULY 17, 2017**