

Medical Safety Information

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency

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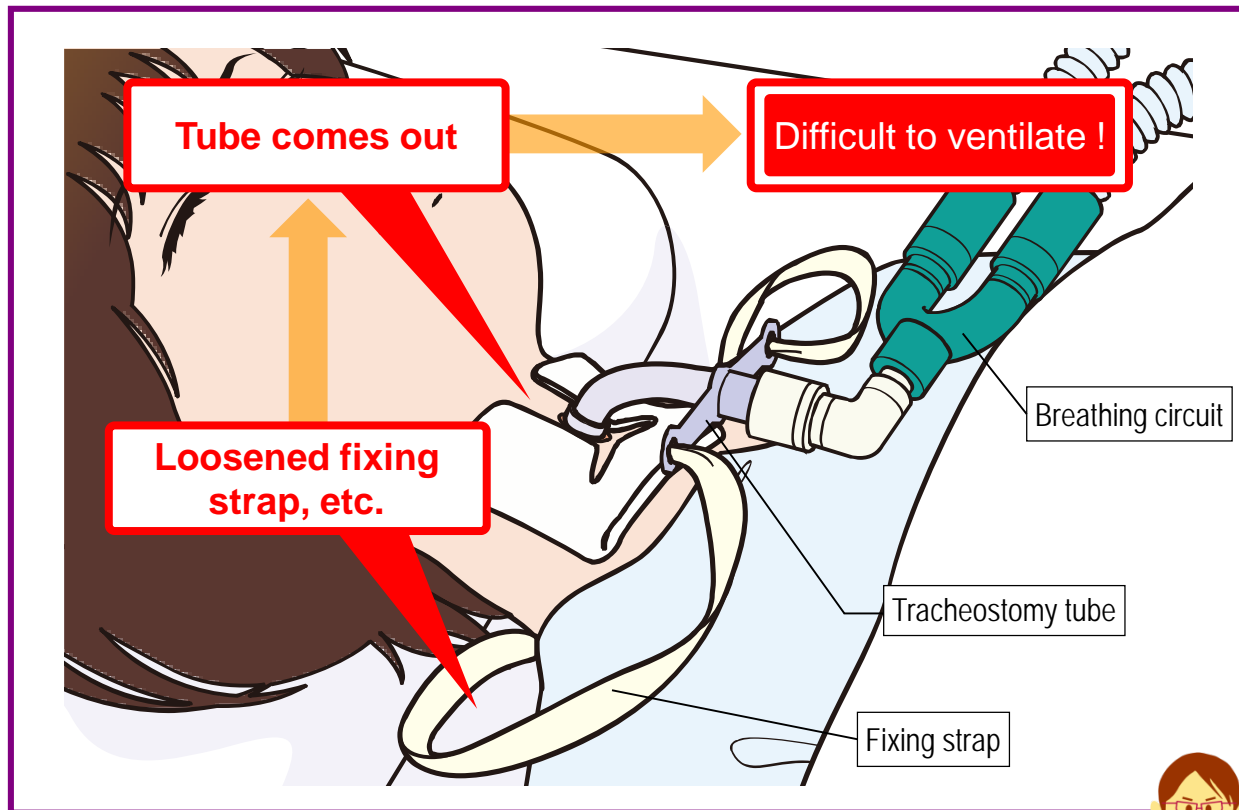
Precautions in Handling of Tracheostomy Tubes

POINT Key points for safe use

(Case 1) The alarm of a mechanical ventilator went off. Medical staff rushed to the patient's room and found that the tracheostomy tube was coming out.

1 Precautions while a tracheostomy tube is placed

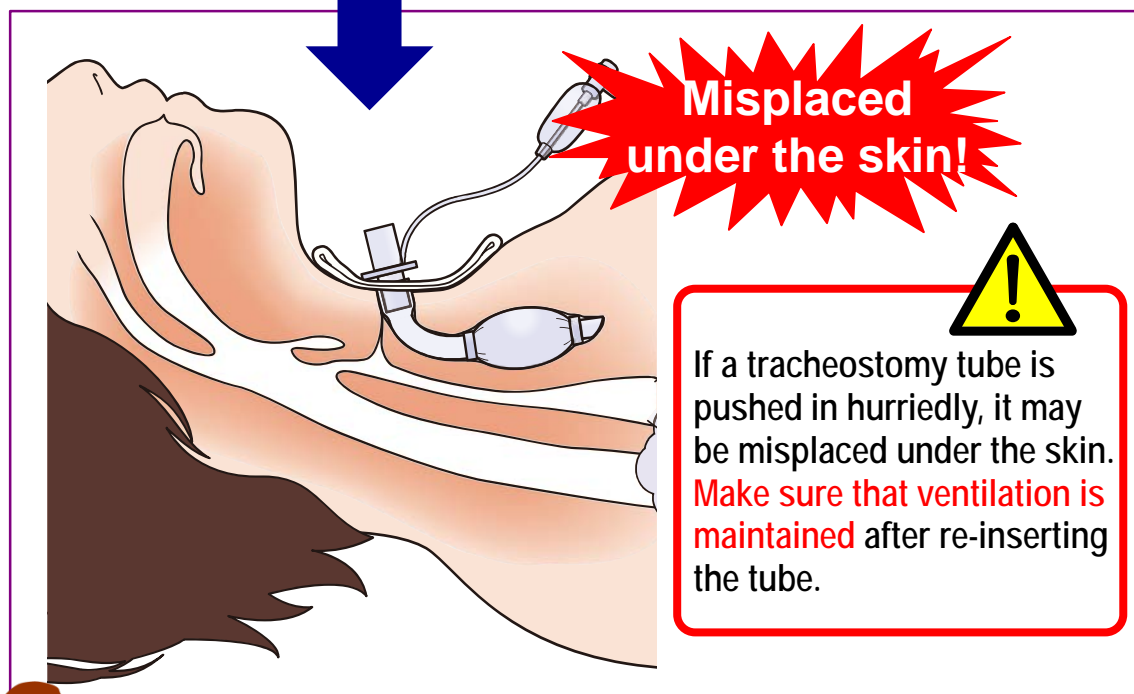
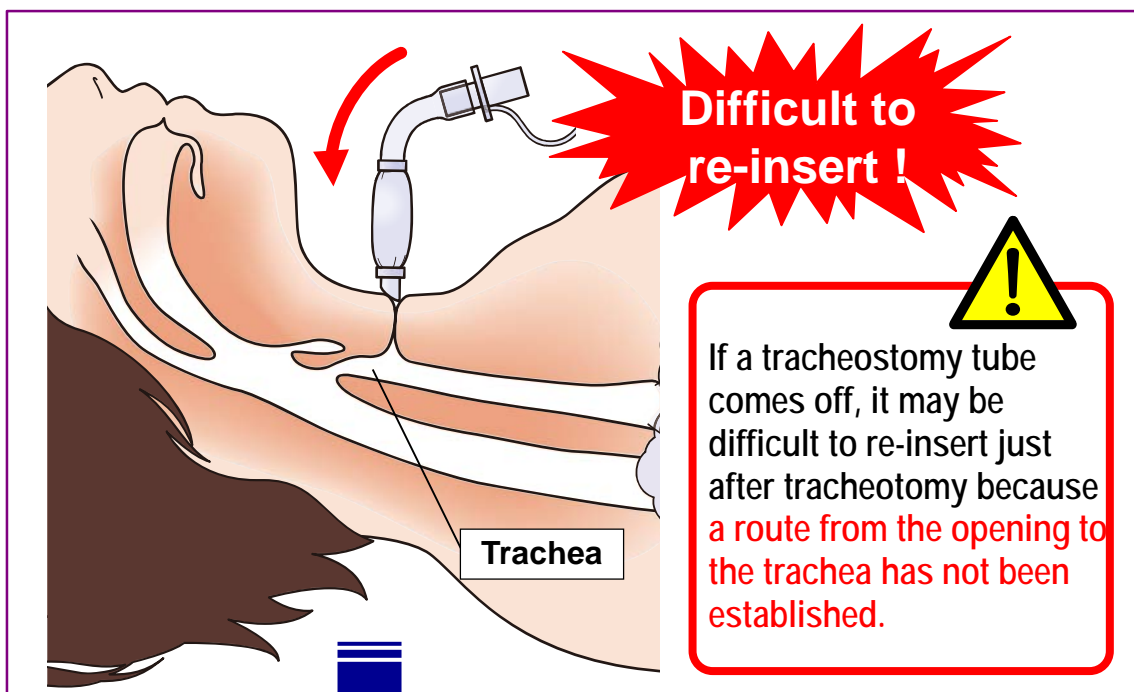
- Check regularly if a tracheostomy tube is securely fixed.



In order to prevent a tracheostomy tube from coming out, **regularly check that the fixing strap has not become loose and that the tube has not been pulled out due to the weight of the circuit.**



Risks when re-inserting a tracheostomy tube



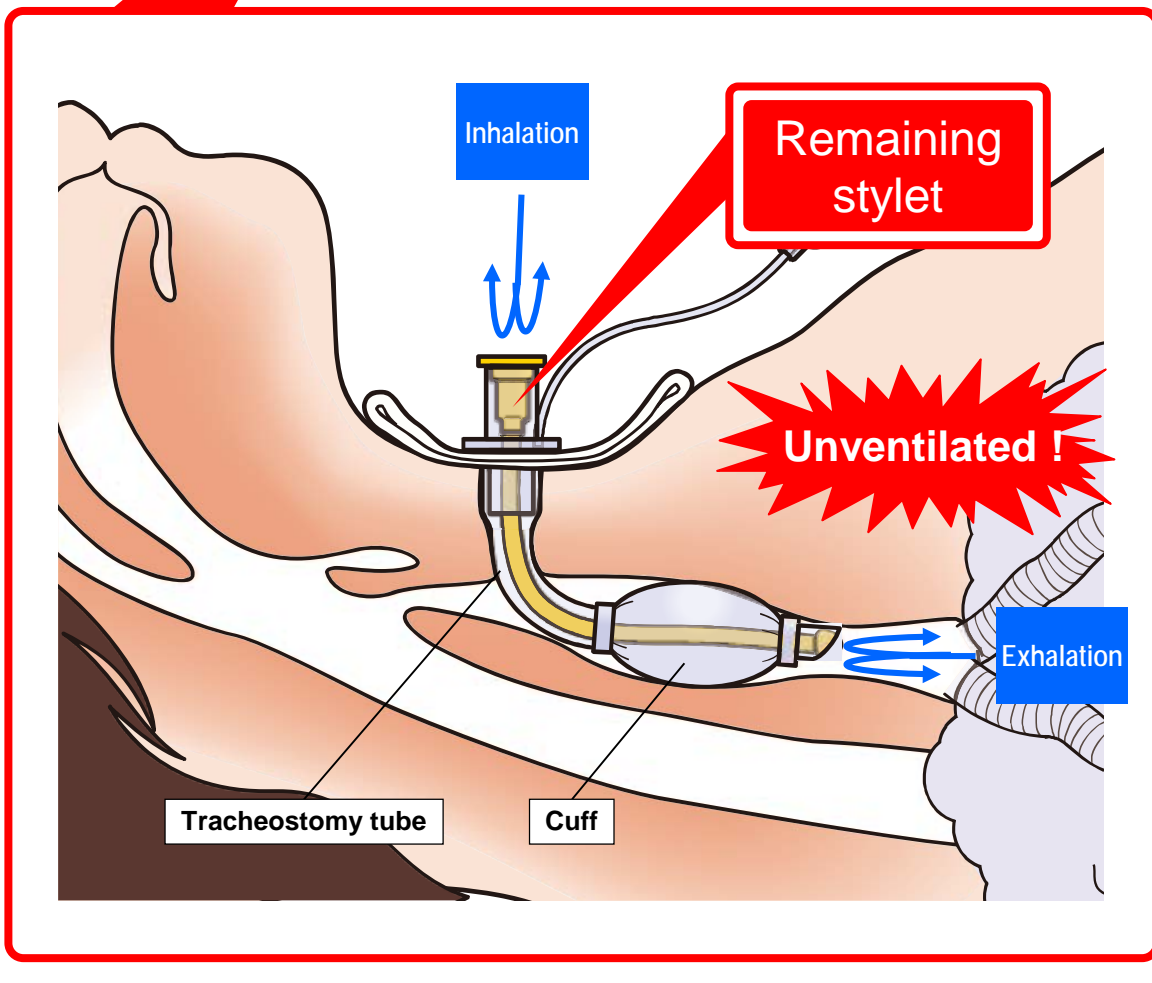
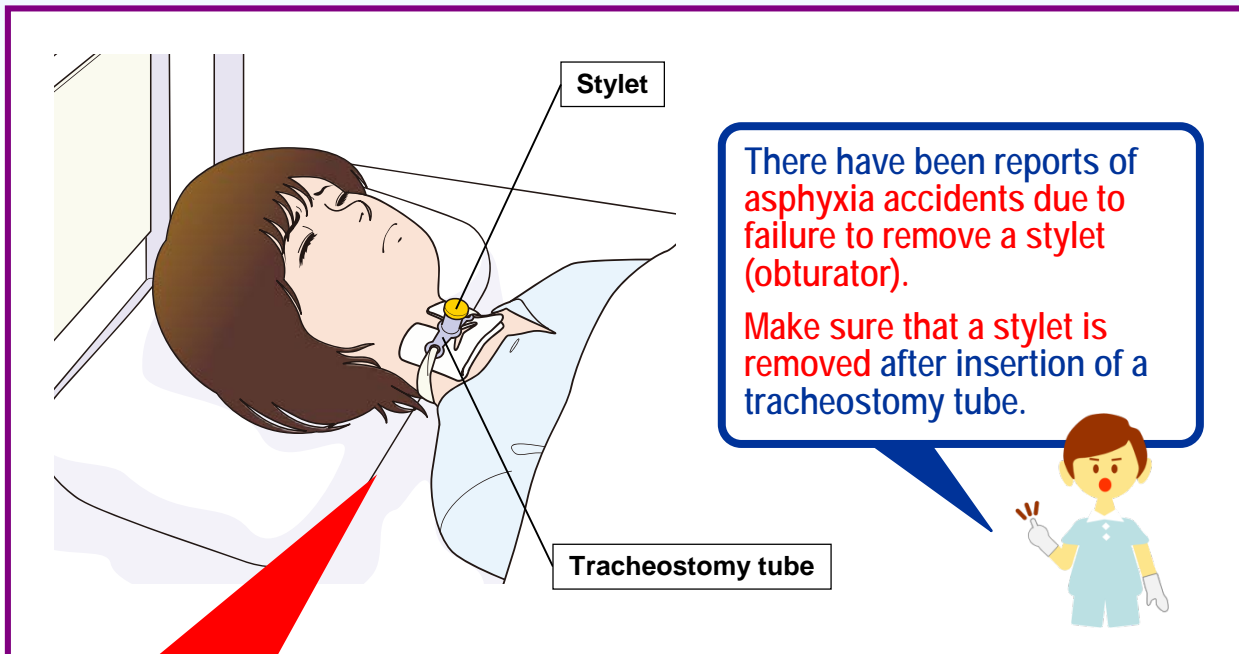
In case it is difficult to re-insert the tracheostomy tube, prepare for endotracheal intubation or alternatives.

* Information on risk management after tracheotomy is also available at the Japan Medical Safety Research Organization website (in Japanese).
http://www.medsafe.jp/activ_alarm.html.

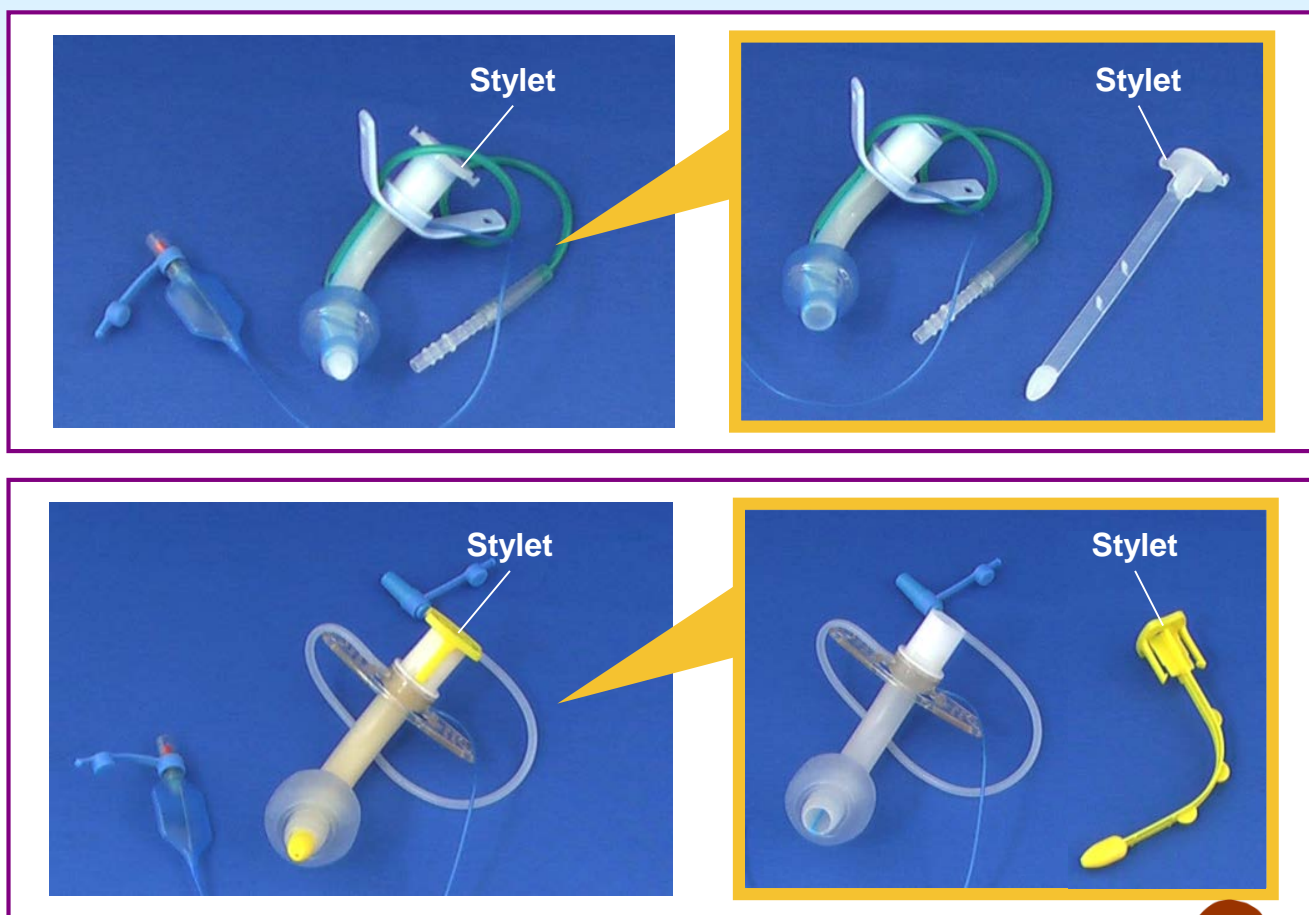
(Case 2) After a tracheostomy tube was replaced, medical staff forgot to remove the stylet, and the patient developed asphyxia.

2 Precautions when using a tracheostomy tube with a stylet

- Make sure to remove the stylet after inserting a tracheostomy tube with a stylet into the trachea.



Examples of tracheostomy tube with a stylet



The colors and shapes of stylets vary depending on the tracheostomy tubes.
Check which tracheostomy tube is used in your institution!



About this information

- * PMDA Medical Safety Information is issued by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency for the purpose of providing healthcare providers with clearer information from the perspective of promoting the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The information presented here has been compiled, with the assistance of expert advice, from cases collected as Medical Accident Information Reports by the Japan Council for Quality Health Care, and collected as Adverse Drug Reaction and Malfunction Reports in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law.
- * We have tried to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of its compilation but do not guarantee its accuracy in the future.
- * This information is not intended to impose constraints on the discretion of healthcare professionals or to impose obligations and responsibility on them, but is provided as a support to promote the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices by healthcare professionals.