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**CHAPTER 18: DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

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**18.2.1.9 Tracheostomy Care Supplies**

Tracheostomy care supplies are covered for beneficiaries following an open surgical tracheostomy.

Tracheostomy care or cleaning starter kits may be covered for a maximum of two weeks postoperative of an open surgical tracheostomy and must contain the following:

1. Plastic tray;
2. Basin;
3. Pair of sterile gloves;
4. Tube brush;
5. Pipe cleaners;
6. Pre-cut tracheostomy dressing;
7. Roll of gauze;
8. 4 inch x 4 inch sponges;
9. Cotton-tip applicators; and
10. One-half inch twill tape.

Tracheostomy care kits for an established tracheostomy may be covered for routine care. One care kit per day is considered normal usage. Additional kits may be considered only with medical necessity documentation.

Tracheostomy care kits for established tracheostomies are expected to contain the following:

1. Tube brush;
2. Pipe cleaners;

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3. Cotton-tip applicators;
4. One-half inch twill tape;
5. 4 inch x 4 inch sponges; and
6. Pair of sterile gloves.

Sterile suction catheters are considered medically necessary only for tracheostomy suctioning.