

Are Re-useable Inner Cannulas – Good Patient Care?

Facilities with tracheostomy patients may believe that the utilization of re-useable inner cannulas represents a cost-effective solution to tracheostomy tube maintenance.

Lazarus Medical does not support this belief!

Lazarus Medical does not believe that re-useable inner cannulas are:

- ✓ **Good patient care!**
- ✓ **A cost-effective solution!**
- ✓ **Good for the health and safety of our clinicians!**

- Cleaning a re-useable inner cannula exposes the clinician to the bio-slime present on the inner cannula.

- Cleaning a re-useable inner cannula exposes the moist inner cannula to the germs present in the clinical environment.

- Re-useable Inner Cannulas are like a number of items that were once re-useable such as handkerchiefs, syringes, and toilet paper.
 - Once these items are soiled, cleaning them is a timely, non-hygienic, and costly process.

- To properly clean a re-useable inner cannula requires a minimum of 15 minutes and cleaning supplies.
 - If a clinician earns a minimum of \$20.00 per hour, then the cost to clean the re-useable inner cannula is \$5.00 plus the cost of the supplies?
 - This is far greater than the cost of a disposable inner cannula.

Lastly, some additional items to ponder:

1. Is the ventilator circuit cleaned and re-used?
 - a. Of course not as it would increase ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP).
2. Is it possible that a clean a re-useable inner cannula could become contaminated and provide a medium for bacterial growth and in turn increase ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP).
 - a. Yes.
3. Since, the inner cannula is part of the ventilator circuit, why then would you clean one part of the ventilator circuit and not the other?