Emergency tracheostomy management - patent upper airway

Call for airway expert help or rapid response team or code blue
Look, listen and feel at mouth and tracheostomy
A manual breathing system with a flow-inflating bag may help assessment (if available)
Use waveform capnography when available: exhaled carbon dioxide indicates a patent or partially patent airway

Is the patient breathing?

- NO
  - Call rapid response team or code blue
  - CPR if unresponsive AND absent or abnormal breathing
  - Apply high flow oxygen to BOTH face and tracheostomy

- YES
  - Apply high flow oxygen
  - to BOTH face and tracheostomy

Assess tracheostomy patency

- NO
  - Can you pass a suction catheter?
    - NO
      - Deflate the cuff (if present)
      - Look, listen and feel at mouth and tracheostomy
      - Use waveform capnography or manual breathing system
    - YES
      - Tracheostomy tube is patent
      - Perform tracheal suction
      - Consider partial obstruction
      - Ventilate (via tracheostomy) if not breathing
      - Continue ABCDE assessment

- YES
  - Tracheostomy tube partially obstructed or displaced
  - Continue ABCDE assessment

REMOVE THE TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE

Look, listen and feel at mouth and tracheostomy. Ensure oxygen re-applied to face and stoma
Use waveform capnography or manual breathing system with flow-inflating bag

Call rapid response team or code blue
CPR if unresponsive AND absent or abnormal breathing

Is the patient breathing?

- NO
  - Primary emergency oxygenation
    - Standard ORAL airway manoeuvre
      - Cover the stoma (swabs and/or hand) Use:
        - bag and mask
        - oral or nasal airway adjuncts
        - supraglottic airway device e.g. LMA
    - Tracheostomy STOMA ventilation either
      - Paediatric face mask applied to stoma
      - OR
      - LMA applied to stoma
  - Secondary emergency oxygenation
    - Attempt ORAL intubation
      - Prepare for difficult intubation
      - Uncut tube, advanced beyond stoma
    - Attempt intubation of STOMA
      - Small tracheostomy tube, 6.0 cuffed ETT
      - Consider bougie, airway exchange catheter or flexible bronchoscope +/- aintree catheter

- YES
  - Continue ABCDE assessment