Focus on caring for a patient with an endotracheal tube

Key Additional Considerations for Adult Patients with Endotracheal Tubes

- Avoid intubation and use non-invasive ventilation whenever appropriate.
- If possible, provide endotracheal tubes with subglottic secretion drainage ports for patients likely to require more than 48 hours of intubation.
- Elevate the head of the bed to 30° – 45°.
- Manage ventilated patients without sedatives whenever possible.
- Assess readiness for extubation every day by performing spontaneous breathing trials with sedatives turned off (in patients without contraindications).

- Perform regular oral care aseptically using clean, non-sterile gloves.
- Facilitate early exercise and mobilization to maintain and improve physical condition.
- Change the ventilator circuit only if visibly soiled or malfunctioning.

*Based on the "WHO hand hygiene improvement approach" posters, URL: http://www.who.int/entity/gpsc/5may/EN_FPS_GPSC1_5May_2015/en/index.html © World Health Organization 2015. All rights reserved.

My 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene

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