



College of Respiratory  
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes  
respiratoires de l'Ontario

# DELEGATION OF TRACH TUBE CHANGES

Practice FAQs

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## QUESTION

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I've been asked to delegate trach tube changes to the Personal Support Workers (PSWs) who are employed at the long-term care facility where I work. I understand that the *Prescribed Procedures below the Dermis* regulation has recently changed. Am I still permitted to delegate this controlled act?

## ANSWER

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Since the regulation change, Respiratory Therapists (RTs) are no longer permitted to delegate tracheostomy tube changes. This is because tracheostomy tube change has been removed from the newly amended *Prescribed Procedures below the Dermis* regulation and added as an exemption in the *Controlled Acts* regulation [s. 14 (1) – (4)].

RTs are only allowed to delegate controlled acts that have been authorized to the profession via the *Respiratory Therapy Act* (RTA) [s. 4 (1) – (5)] and are supported by any relevant “enabling regulations”, such as the *Prescribed Procedures below the Dermis* regulation. It is important to understand that exemptions in the *Controlled Acts* regulation are different in that they allow certain health care professionals to perform specific tasks, but do not provide full legislative authority. Therefore, as long as it's permitted by the terms of their certification of registration, RTs can perform trach tube changes (both for stomas greater than and less than 24 hours), but they cannot delegate this procedure.