Simple tracheal cannula and components

Body of the tracheal tube, commonly called **"cannula"**	• Portion of the cannula inserted internally into the trachea and therefore invisible externally. • Helps to keep the tracheostomy open (patent). • Helps the passage of air in and out of the lungs and facilitates the suctioning of secretions.	
Flanges or **neck collar** or **trach plate**	• External, visible portion of the tracheal cannula that rests on the neck. • Openings on each side of the flanges are present to allow for insertion of ties (a Velcro® band or ribbons) that wrap around the back of the neck to hold the tracheal cannula in place. • Serves as a point of anchor on which to place the fingers and stabilize the cannula when providing care.	
Connector	• External, visible portion of the cannula. • Opening through which air can pass into the lungs. • Opening through which suction catheters can be inserted into the tracheal cannula. • Permits the connection of the tracheal cannula to an artificial nose (heat and moisture exchanger), a speaking valve, a ventilatory bag and/or a respirator.	
Obturator	• Used when changing a tracheal cannula. • Serves as a guide during the introduction and proper placement of the tracheal cannula in the trachea. • The rounded tip allows for a smooth insertion and minimal irritation to the tracheal walls. • Must be removed immediately once the tracheal cannula is in place because it completely blocks the passage of air.