TESTING PORTABLE & ONBOARD SUCTION UNITS

Please follow manufacturer’s recommendations for equipment checks and perform checks more regularly if indicated to do so in the manufacturer’s instructions.

To use the vacuum gauge:

When testing each suction unit always start at the end of the suction hose where suction catheter is inserted. This is for both portable and onboard suction units.

a. Place tip of vacuum gauge into suction tube securely. On some units you will need an adapter that reduces the hose size so a French suction catheter can be used.

b. Turn suction unit on

c. The needle on the vacuum gauge MUST go up to 300 within 4 seconds

If vacuum gauge will not reach 300 within 4 seconds you must correct the deficiency

a. Start with the seal on the collection canister
   a. Gasket could be out of place
   b. Broken
   c. Dry rotted

b. Suction hose may be kinked or collapsed

c. Collection canister may have a crack in it

d. Battery may be dead or weak

e. Could be a leak in reserve tank or line before entering patient compartment

f. The pump may have become defective