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### Patient Safety & Awareness Campaign 2018

The National Association of Laryngectomee Clubs (NALC) is promoting an awareness campaign designed to highlight the needs of laryngectomy / neck breathing patients when requiring emergency aid and resuscitation.

It is important to recognise that a patient is a neck breather and that a stoma may not be immediately obvious.

There is a variety of stoma covers, for example cravats and for the ladies jewellery. You may also look for alert items such as wrist bands, car stickers and wallet cards.

#### It is essential that resuscitation is carried out through the stoma

Other things to appreciate are:

The only airway to the lungs is through a stoma

Laryngectomees have a very diminished sense of smell

They have a limited and varied means of communication

There is also a danger and vulnerability around water

The National Association of Laryngectomee Clubs have produced a new leaflet, available in hard copy and electronically, which we hope you will find helpful and ask if you would make it available to all your staff, volunteers and colleagues to help promote the awareness of emergency aid for neck breathers in the continuance of saving lives.

We also have an education programme and contribute to training events in hospitals and universities and if you require further information please contact us at the above.

*Tony Hudson*

Vice President

National Association of Laryngectomee Clubs

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