

# Awake and Alert Caregiver Counseling

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## **What is awake and alert caregiver counseling?**

A member of your child's care team will counsel you on why your child needs an awake and alert person providing care at all times. You will sign below that you understand.

Patient's name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **We understand that:**

- The tracheostomy (trach) and ventilator (vent) is life support for our child.
- Without this support our child will die.
- We understand the pros and cons of trach and vent.
- We agree to accept these risks and to provide safe care at home for our child as we were taught.
- We understand our child may get a mucus plug blocking the trach, the trach tube may come out, and the vent or monitors may stop working.
  - These situations may cause serious injury, for example brain injury or death.
- We agree to have an awake, alert and trained person watching our child at all times.
- It is hard to have an awake, alert and trained person with our child at all times.

### **To help us care for our child we will take these action steps:**

- Two caregivers are trained while our child is in the hospital. If one caregiver needs rest, the other caregiver needs to watch the child.
- Our care team will train more caregivers if we ask.

- We can also train more caregivers on our own.
- The team arranges for us to have home nursing when our child goes home and really wants us to accept home nursing.
- The person watching our child must:
  - Stay awake
  - Be alert
  - Be able to care for our child
  - Be able to respond to alarms
  - Be able to call 911 if there is an emergency

Our team talked to us about the need for an awake and alert caregiver at all times and we agree to this.

Caregiver #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Caregiver #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Counseling provided by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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