

## **Movement of Patient With Artificial Airway**

### **Purpose:**

Policy to prevent accidental removal of artificial airway during transport of patient or turning of patient. Also to prevent iatrogenic rupture of trachea due to excessive tension transferred from artificial airway to trachea.

### **Description:**

Any time the patient is to be moved (i.e. from bed to bed, bed to gurney, bed to chair, etc.), turned (change of patient position, hygienic procedures, etc.) the patient will be disconnected from ventilator circuit. Oxygenation and ventilation will be assisted by hyperinflation with a self-inflating resuscitation bag by qualified personnel. Upon completion of movement patient will have ventilator circuit re-attached.

### **Indications:**

Any patient with an endotracheal tube or tracheostomy tube in place who is receiving mechanical ventilation.

### **Contraindications/Hazards/Complications:**

Patients who are on high level of PEEP ( $\geq 10$  cmH<sub>2</sub>O) or who require high levels of mean airway pressure should not be disconnected. Disconnection of these patients can result in loss of alveolar recruitment, hemodynamic compromise, and subsequent decompensation.

### **Equipment:**

1. self-inflating resuscitation bag
2. Oxygen source
3. PEEP valve as needed for PEEP 6 to 9 cm H<sub>2</sub>O.

### **Personnel:**

1. RRT 1, 2
2. CRT 1, 2
3. RN 1, 2, 3

It is preferable, although not required, for RRT/CRT to be present during disconnection, turning, and/or transport of patient, and subsequent reconnection to ventilator circuit.

### **Procedure:**

1. Gather necessary equipment.
2. Disconnect patient from circuit and begin oxygenation and ventilation with self-inflating resuscitation bag.
3. Perform transport or turning of patient.
4. Once movement is complete reconnect patient to ventilator circuit.

### **Infection Control:**

Cardiopulmonary Services  
SICU Specific Policies  
PROC 21.3

Anytime the ventilator circuit is broken the chance for pulmonary infection exists. Prior to beginning procedure caregiver should wash hands and wear necessary personal protective equipment. Assure that neither the Ambu® bag nor the ventilator circuit comes in contact with the floor or any surface that can contaminate said equipment.

Written: August 2000  
Reviewed: November 2003