

CARE OF THE PATIENT WITH A RESPIRATORY IMPAIRMENT

OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote adequate ventilation and tissue oxygenation.
2. To prevent hypoxia, respiratory infection, and/or respiratory failure.

PROCESS STANDARDS:

1. The patient's vital signs will be checked a minimum of every 8 hours.
2. A respiratory assessment will be done a minimum of every 8 hours.
3. Skin color/nail beds, and/or mucous membranes will be assessed at least every 8 hours for adequate perfusion.
4. The patient will be positioned for optimal gas exchange.
5. Oxygen therapy and respiratory treatments shall be administered as ordered.
6. The patient will be assessed daily as to tolerance of therapy and/or activity.
7. The patient/significant other will be instructed regarding the disease process and care provided.

OUTCOME STANDARDS:

For the 24 hours prior to discharge:

1. The patient will be afebrile (less than 100^BF).
2. The patient will be free of acute respiratory distress.
3. The patient will not have experienced new complications from hypoxia.
4. The patient/significant other will express understanding of care provided and follow-up care.

HAVE I DOCUMENTED:

- * Vital Signs
 - Blood pressure
 - Pulse
 - Rate
 - Character
 - Type
 - Respirations
 - Rate
 - Character (labored, shallow)
 - Type

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HAVE I DOCUMENTED continued:

- * Patient position (for optimal gas exchange - HOB elevated)
- * Oxygen Therapy and Respiratory Treatments
- * Patient Response to Therapy/Treatment
 - Skin color
 - Nail bed color
 - Mucous membranes' color
- * Patient Education
 - Positioning
 - Therapy
 - Disease process

At The Time of Discharge:

- * Afebrile
- * No acute respiratory distress
- * Patient understanding of care and follow-up

Reference:

1. Bekken, N. Nursing Consult. *Updated: Acute Respiratory Failure in Adults: [Mosby's Nursing Consult - Clinical Updates](#)*. (2008). Retrieved: March 5, 2009.
2. Cleary, D. Nursing Consult. *Brochospasm in Asthma: The Importance of Assessment and Reassessment. [Mosby's Nursing Consult - Clinical Updates](#)*. (2008). Retrieved: March 5, 2009.
3. Coxen, V. and Johnson, K., *Delmar's Fundamental and Advanced Nursing Skills-2nd ed.* (2004). *Oxygenation*. Clifton Park, NY: Delmar Learning.
4. Doenges, M. et. al. *Nurses Pocket Guide: Diagnosis, Prioritized Interventions, and Rationales- 11th ed.* (2008). *Impaired Gas Exchange*. Accessed 10/29/2009 [AR, LA, OK Libraries - LSU - Shreveport -- Nurse's Pocket Guide: Diagnoses, Prioritized Interventions, and Rationales - 11th Ed. \(2008\)](#). Philadelphia: F.A. Davis.