High Flow Nasal Cannula 11.19.20 1330

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Why High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC)?

Helps Patients

- Can improve gas exchange and oxygenation
- Decreases the patient's work of breathing
- Serves as an alternative to more invasive forms of treatment, such as mechanical ventilation

Key Benefits

- Washout of anatomical dead space
- Provides high levels of flow
- Optimized muco-ciliary clearance
- Patients can eat, drink, sleep and talk

General Info

4 Types




All four utilize the Optiflow + interfaces for patient connections. Most patients use nasal cannula, while face masks and trachs are rare. Patient may also require Non-rebreather for ambulation or mouth breathing.

HFNC + Proper Heat & Humidy = Comfort

The combination of nasal cannula and optimal humidity enables comfortable delivery of high flows. With other O2 delivery devices, the FiO2 will vary depending on the patient respiratory rate and depth of respiration. Proper heat and humidity are important for:

- Maintenance of mucus-ciliary function
- Prevention of squamous epithelial changes
- Prevention of dehydration
- Prevention of thickening of secretions
- Keeps secretions thin and flowing

Note: You may commonly see condensation in or outside the tubing

Who's Considered for HNFC?

- Patients requiring high flows and or high oxygen requirements who are currently on venti masks, Non-rebreather masks, aerosol masks.
- Patients that don't tolerate masks
- Patients may be considered for this therapy if they are claustrophobic wearing a BiPAP/CPAP mask, but note it is NOT as a ventilation device.

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Patient Care

Patient Transport

Patients should not be transported on HFNC.*

Notify the Respiratory Therapist (RT) assigned to the patient prior to transport so they can:

- Place the patient on an appropriate O2 device for transport (which is usually a Non-rebreather mask)
- Take care of machine and proper disposal of equipment

**Patients on a V60 High Flow can be transported. These are BiPAPs converted to High Flow.*

Weaning FiO_2 & Liter Flow

Weaning is complete by RT **ONLY.** If you believe that your patient is ready to be weaned please call the assigned RT.

Declining Patient

If a patient is having desaturation issues please call the Respiratory Therapist assigned to the patient right away.

If the Respiratory Therapist is delayed you can consider applying a non-rebreather mask in addition to the high flow nasal cannula until the RT arrives.