

High Flow Nasal Cannula 11.19.20 1330

Document Reviewed 04/20/2021 0645

Spectrum Health Contact: Maria Mast & Faith Cass-Carrier

Why High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC)?

Helps Patients

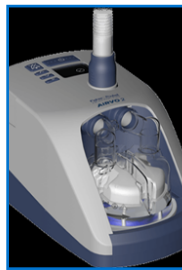
- Can improve gas exchange and oxygenation
- Decreases the patient's work of breathing
- Serves as an alternative to more invasive forms of treatment, such as mechanical ventilation

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 & Humidity = 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 HFNC?

- 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.

High Flow Nasal Cannula

Spectrum Health Contact: Maria Mast & Faith Cass-Carrier



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 FiO₂ & 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.