

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
CARDIO PULMONARY POLICY MANUAL  
ETHICS REGARDING PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

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**Policy No: 1.007**  
**Origin: Cardio Pulmonary**  
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Scope: All members of the Cardio-pulmonary Department.

Purpose: Cardio-Pulmonary personnel involved with patient care shall present a professional attitude toward discharge of their duties and responsibilities.

Procedure:

1. The patient's safety and well-being are the prime consideration of those attending to the patient's care. The therapist will remain on the patient unit while the patient is receiving respiratory treatments.
2. All procedures to be undertaken will be clearly explained to the patient as well as to those family members present.
3. Patients in a semi-conscious or comatose condition will receive this same consideration.
4. It is extremely important to support, assure and encourage the patient while delivering the respiratory support necessary. Patients receiving respiratory support or management are especially dependent upon the quality and quantity of care they receive. When the patient is the most dependent is when he/she is in the greatest need of psychological support as well.
5. Therapists shall preserve the dignity and appreciate the individuality of each patient. The following are guidelines to assist the therapist/technician:
  - A. Talk to the patient by name.
  - B. Allow ample time for proper delivery of the respiratory care.
  - C. Answer questions relating to that care.
  - D. Properly prepare the patient to accept that care.
  - E. Perform teaching to those patients that will continue respiratory care upon discharge.
  - F. Recognize adverse or fearful reactions from the patient or family members present. If these can be corrected, take the time to do so. Enlist the help of a nurse if necessary.
  - G. Appreciate the confidentiality of a patient's condition and contents of the patient's chart.
  - H. Especially stressful procedures to the patient may best be conducted behind a closed curtain.