

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
CARDIOPULMONARY
PATIENT ASSESSMENT FOR RESPIRATORY CARE**

Effective Date: March 2010

Policy No: 3B.001

Cross Referenced:

Origin: Cardiopulmonary

Reviewed Date: 12/2012

Authority: Cardiopulmonary Manager

Revised Date: 12/2012

Page: 1 of 1

SCOPE

All members of the Cardiopulmonary Department

PURPOSE

1. To define and identify the elements necessary to assist in the decision making process regarding individual patient care needs.
2. To facilitate interdisciplinary care planning.

DEFINITION

Assessment for respiratory therapy will be defined as a systemic collection and review of data and clinical observations pertaining to a patient.

A referral is a care need identified as a result of assessment by a discipline involving the care of a particular patient. Orders for respiratory care are generated by physicians and an assessment of a patient's respiratory status will be provided by a respiratory care practitioner according to our patient plan of care.

PROCEDURE

The following respiratory therapy assessments must be completed and documented. The degree of assessment will depend on the patient's condition and the type of care that has been ordered:

1. Clinical observations: Ventilator pattern, work of breathing, pulse rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, diaphoresis, restlessness, skin color.
2. Questioning the patient as to his/her subjective feelings with regard to their breathing.
3. Auscultation before and after therapeutic procedures.
4. Peak flow evaluation, when necessary.
5. Pulse oximetry, when available.
6. Patient response to therapy.
7. Capnography, when necessary and available.
8. Arterial blood gases, when necessary and available.
9. Re-assessment (a periodic re-evaluation of patient's progress).

Post assessment must be performed every 48 hours in order to assure a revision of the patient's progress and a continuation of the plan of care as per respiratory policy.

If patient education is recommended on the post assessment, such education must be completed within 24 hours of such determination.

Respiratory therapy pre and post assessments are to be filed in the patient's electronic medical records, for review and evaluation by other members of the patient's multi-disciplinary care team.