

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
CARDIOPULMONARY  
OXYGEN ADMINISTRATION VIA NASAL CANNULA**

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**Effective Date: March 2010**

**Policy No: 3B.004**

**Cross Referenced:**

**Origin: Cardiopulmonary**

**Reviewed Date: 12/2012**

**Authority: Cardiopulmonary Manager**

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**Page: 1 of 1**

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**SCOPE**

All members of the Cardiopulmonary Department

**PURPOSE**

To supply low flow supplemental oxygen at low FiO<sub>2</sub> to treat patients with hypoxemia, increased work of breathing and respiratory distress.

**PROCEDURE**

Equipment:

- Oxygen Flow Meter
- Nipple Adapter (Christmas Tree)
- Nasal Cannula
- Bubble Bottle (If needed)

Procedure:

- Verify order by checking the patient's chart.
- Introduce yourself to the patient.
- Verify patient's identity by checking his/her ID bracelet.
- Explain to the patient what you are going to do.
- Plug oxygen flow meter into the oxygen wall outlet.
- Connect the nipple adapter or bubble bottle to the flow meter.
- Adjust flow meter so that it will deliver the desired flow and connect it to the nipple adapter or bubble bottle.
- Connect nasal cannula to the patient, make sure that prongs are facing down into the patients nose. Adjust it so that it fits securely on the patient.
- Follow up with pulse oximeter to maintain desired oxygen saturation.

Care of Equipment:

- Flow meter must be vertical when plugged into the oxygen wall outlet to guarantee accurate flow.
- Exercise caution when handling equipment to avoid dropping.

Important Points:

- Oxygen is a drug and, as such, a physician order is required.
- The nasal cannula requires a physician order and should specify a desired oxygen saturation to be maintained.
- The patient must be properly identified prior to administration of oxygen.
- Bubble humidifier should be used to prevent nose bleeds when flow is > 3 lpm.
- Flow meter should never be set > 6 lpm.

Safety Precautions:

- Allow no hazardous materials or devices near the patient while oxygen is in use (petroleum products - Vaseline, electric razors, etc.).
- Watch for patient sensitivity to oxygen administration (e.g., COPD).
- Only properly licensed personnel are allowed to set-up and/or monitor this device.

Documentation:

- Obtain a Cardiopulmonary Services requisition with the appropriate patient information from the computer.
- Stamp the Cardiopulmonary Services Progress Notes, record the appropriate data and insert the notes into the patient's chart in the proper location.

Approved by: See signed Authority & Approval form  
month / year Committee Name