

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
CARDIOPULMONARY  
AMBULATORY PULSE OXIMETRY-INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT**

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**Effective Date: March 2010**

**Cross Referenced:**

**Reviewed Date: 12/2012**

**Revised Date: 2/2014**

**Policy No: 3B.008**

**Origin: Cardiopulmonary**

**Authority: Cardiopulmonary Manager**

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**SCOPE**

All members of the Cardiopulmonary Department

**PURPOSE**

To outline the procedures and guidelines for performing ambulatory pulse oximetry on inpatients and outpatients.

The evaluation will be ordered by the physician.

**PROCEDURE**

**Inpatient**

- If the evaluation is to determine the need for home oxygen upon discharge of an inpatient, the evaluation must be performed no more than 24 hours prior to discharge.
- The respiratory therapist will confirm the order and communicate with the patient's nurse about limitations.
  - If the patient has an ambulation impairment, the respiratory therapist will work in conjunction with physical therapy to safely ambulate the patient.
  - If the patient is not able to ambulate, notify the ordering physician.
  - The respiratory therapist will identify the patient and explain the procedure.
  - The respiratory therapist will assess the patient including but not limited to Oxygen Saturation via pulse oximetry (SpO<sub>2</sub>), heart rate and shortness of breath at rest.
  - If the patient is on supplemental oxygen the patient will be assessed with the oxygen in place and then removed from the supplemental oxygen for 10-15 minutes before test is started.
  - Prior to ambulation, the patient will be reassessed on room air. If the SpO<sub>2</sub> is acceptable the patient may be safely ambulated.
    - Check patient SPO<sub>2</sub> at rest on room air and document.
    - Check patient SPO<sub>2</sub> during ambulation on room air and document.
    - Check patient SPO<sub>2</sub> during ambulation on prescribed amount of oxygen, or 2LPM if not already on oxygen, and document.
  - Record all finding in the patient's chart in hospital EMR.

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**Outpatient**

The patient will present a prescription from a physician for an ambulatory pulse oximetry. The respiratory therapist will identify the patient and explain the procedure. If the patient is not able to ambulate, notify the ordering physician.

The respiratory therapist will assess the patient including but not limited to oxygen saturation via pulse oximetry (SpO<sub>2</sub>), heart rate and shortness of breath at rest.

If the patient is on supplemental oxygen the patient will be assessed with the oxygen in place and then removed from the supplemental oxygen.

Prior to ambulation, the patient will be reassessed on room air. If the SpO<sub>2</sub> is acceptable, the patient may be safely ambulated.

The patient will be continually monitored throughout the process.

- Check patient SPO<sub>2</sub> at rest on room air and document.
- Check patient SPO<sub>2</sub> during ambulation on room air and document.
- Check patient SPO<sub>2</sub> during ambulation on prescribed amount of oxygen, or 2LPM if not already on oxygen, and document.

The respiratory therapist performing the test will document the above findings on the Outpatient Ambulatory Pulse Oximetry Results form and fax it to the ordering physician.

The form and fax confirmation will be filed in the outpatient pulse oximetry results binder located in the Respiratory workroom.