

Section: Division of Nursing
Approval: _____

* **PROCEDURE** *

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Issue Date: July 16, 1992
Revised Date: February, 2008

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Originator: M. Flannery, RN
B. Van Meter, RNC
C. Dellanno, RN
Revised by: M. Hoffman, RNC

NEWBORN SERVICES/4-SOUTH
(Scope)

TITLE: CARE OF INFANT ON CARDIAC-APNEA MONITOR

PURPOSE: To define nursing actions and documentation required for the infant being monitored.

SUPPORTIVE DATA: Infants with respiratory distress, extreme prematurity, periodic breathing patterns, or suspected apnea are often monitored. Points for caring for these infants include:

- a. Gentle handling to prevent unnecessary stress.
- b. Keep airway clear - gently suctioning.

CONTENT:
Nursing Responsibility:

PROCEDURE STEPS:

1. Check monitor during each shift - make sure alarms are set and working properly.
2. If machine alarms, observe infant briefly to see if breathing is spontaneous or treatment is necessary.
3. If infant determined to be apneic more than 10-15 seconds, begin stimulation - soles of feet, ankles, back.
4. Suction naso/oropharynx; provide O₂ and prepare bag and mask if dusky, cyanotic or bradycardic. Possible ventilation assistance may be required.
5. Administer O₂ and warm humidified air per MD order to maintain SAO₂ > 90%.
6. Report and assess blood gases and lab reports (PCO₂; PO₂ & electrolytes).
7. Check temperature.

KEY POINTS:

Machine may alarm if respirations shallow, resp. lead is loose or placement is incorrect, or if infant moving.

See: Ambu-Bag & Oxygen
Oxygen Admin.-Analyzer

Documentation:

1. All episodes of apnea are documented in Affinity.
2. Describe activity at time of apnea (feeding, suction, stooling, sleeping) and length of episode.
3. Describe any treatment required to bring baby out of apneic spell, color of infant and characteristics of respirations.
4. Assess NIPS scale