

VALLEYCARE
OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS
5B - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
POLICY & PROCEDURE

NUMBER: 5037
VERSION: 1

SUBJECT/TITLE: USE OF BAIR HUGGER

MD ORDER: YES (X) NO ()

POLICY: The Bair Hugger may be applied to the patient to increase an undesirably low body temperature. Bair Hugger unit must be cleaned after each patient use.

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines in the use of Bair Hugger machine.

DEPARTMENTS: Medicine, Nursing 5B - Intensive Care Unit

DEFINITIONS: The Bair Hugger is an external warming device applied to the patient to increase an undesirably low body temperature. Bair Huggers use forced-air-warming system, which is delivered to a special disposable blanket.

PROCEDURE:

1. Verifies physician's orders
2. Attaches warming blanket to Bair Hugger machine
3. Plugs into AC outlet
4. Washes hands before and after procedure
5. Wait at least two minutes for warming blanket to fill with warm air.
6. Applies to part of the body as ordered by the physician
7. Does not use on infants or unconscious patients Checks for skin damage due to varying skin sensitivity

Cleaning the exterior surface

The exterior surface of the Bair Hugger can be cleaned and disinfected using the recommended cleaner or disinfectant. Bair Hugger unit must be cleaned after patient use.

1. Clean the surfaces using a soft cloth lightly dampened in a mild soap or detergent cleaning solution.
2. Wipe the surfaces with the disinfecting solution. PDI Super Sani Cloth is recommended.
3. Air dry or towel dry with a clean cloth.
4. Place a clean plastic cover over the Bair Hugger machine to indicate that equipment has been cleaned/disinfected and ready for use.

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References: Manufacturer Owner's Manual AACN Procedure Manual for Critical Care 6 th Edition ValleyCare Olive View - UCLA Medical Center Department of Nursing Education, Competency Validation	
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