



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

**SUBJECT: INPATIENT PORTABLE VENTILATOR AND
EXTERNAL BATTERY CHARGING
PROTOCOL**

**Policy No.: B605.1
Supersedes: October 5, 2018
Revision Date: January 23, 2023
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PURPOSE:

To assure that any patient who is an inpatient and requires use of a portable ventilator:

- A. Has the appropriate ventilator
- B. Has a ventilator which is working properly
- C. Has any external batteries charged in the proper and safe manner

POLICY:

Any patient admitted with their own ventilator will be placed on a Rancho Ventilator unless it is anticipated that the patient will be admitted for less than 5 days and there is a written physicians order to use the patient's ventilator.

Lithium Ion Battery Powered Ventilators

Ventilators with Internal Dual Battery systems powered by lithium ion batteries are safe to charge in patient care areas and while the patient on the ventilator. No external charger is required as these ventilators can be charged safely by plugging the ventilator directly into red or green wall outlet.

Lead Acid Battery Powered Ventilators

Any lead acid battery powered ventilator brought in by any patient will be inspected upon admission by Biomedical prior to use within the medical center.

Lead acid batteries will not be charged in a patient room. All lead acid ventilator batteries will be charged in the designated battery charging location.

PROCEDURES:

When a patient is admitted on a portable ventilator:

1. Respiratory Care Services will be contacted by the nursing staff.
2. Respiratory Therapy or Biomedical will remove it from the patient's wheelchair and it must be taken home by the family or surrogate (if the patient's own ventilator is not to be used).
3. Respiratory Therapy will place it in a secure location in a manner to prevent its use while in the medical center (if no family or surrogate are available to take the ventilator). Respiratory Therapy will obtain and return the ventilator to the patient or family when ordered by the physician or at the time of discharge.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 8, 2003

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

APPROVED BY:

If Using the Patient's Own Ventilator:

1. Biomedical will check the ventilator for electrical safety.
2. Respiratory Therapy will check the ventilator to ensure there are no expired maintenance stickers/tags.
3. When the patient is not in their wheelchair, Respiratory Therapy will remove the ventilator from the wheelchair (if the ventilator is to be used in the patient's room).
4. The patient's wheelchair will be removed from the patient's room when not in use and the batteries charged per hospital protocol.

If using a Rancho Ventilator:

1. Respiratory Care Services will be contacted, and they will provide the appropriate medical center ventilator(s) to be used.
2. Respiratory Therapy or Biomedical will place the Rancho ventilator on the patient's wheelchair when the patient is cleared for wheelchair ambulation.
3. Biomedical will check the wheelchair and ventilator to assure that all connections, cables and other items are correct and safe, and ensure that batteries and ventilator are secured appropriately.

Bedside Portable Ventilators:

1. Respiratory care will place the ventilator on the appropriate shelving when at the bedside in the JPI Building if a ventilator stand is not available.
2. Respiratory Care Services will assure that the ventilators are secured appropriately in a designated carrying cage, pack or tray when patient is using a wheelchair.

Charging of batteries:

1. Nursing will assure that the batteries on all devices are charged according to instruction above for lithium ion and lead acid batteries.

Author: Respiratory Care Committee

EP 2018, 2023