



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center PHYSICAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

PROCEDURE FOR MAINTAINING RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT

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PURPOSE: Various devices are used in PT for both testing and training/exercise of the respiratory system. These include but are not limited to spirometer machines for testing and plastic training/exercise devices such as the incentive spirometers. Some of the devices are issued to patients while some are stored in therapy treatment areas for use during treatment sessions. The purpose of this policy is to describe the process for maintaining PT respiratory equipment.

POLICY: Each clinician working with a patient using respiratory equipment is responsible for ensuring the equipment is maintained properly, that appropriate safeguards are used to ensure cleanliness of the equipment and that equipment is stored properly. If a question arises on best practice for appropriate infection control, the Director of Infection Control will be consulted.

PROCEDURE:

- I. INSPIROMETERY TESTING DEVICES (ie. Spirometers) AND RESPIRATORY TRAINING DEVICES (such as INCENTIVE SPIROMETER DEVICES)
 - A. Various portable, plastic devices are used to test, train and exercise the respiratory system of our patients. Other permanent devices are used to test the status of the respiratory system and to exercise the respiratory muscles.
 - B. Each patient requiring treatment with a respiratory training/exercise device will be issued his/her own device. The respiratory training devices are not shared among patients.
 - C. The respiratory training devices will be stored in a plastic bag that seals and labeled with the patients name and Rancho number between PT treatment sessions.
 - D. Respiratory training devices issued to the patient at bedside by Nursing will be managed by the Nursing staff. Patients and/or their family members will be instructed to clean the mouthpiece or request a staff member to clean the mouthpiece before and after each use and keep the device in a clean location. The tubing for the mouthpiece typically is fixed upright on the device when not in use.
 - E. A new disposable mouthpiece and filter will be used for each patient who is testing on the inspirometer testing devices in PT.
 - F. Mouthpieces are stored in PT JPI 3rd floor gym storage area

- G. Staff will follow appropriate infection control guidelines when handling the mouthpieces and filters.
- H. Dispose of mouthpiece and filters in trash can after use.

II. **WRIGHT SPIROMETER** or other Calibrated Respiratory Testing Devices

- A. Each patient requiring testing with the Wright Spirometer or other calibrated testing device will be issued a new disposable breathing filter. Filters can be obtained from Respiratory Therapy office. The filter should be stored in a plastic bag labeled with the patients name and Rancho number when not in use.
- B. Discard filter after thirty (30) days, or when therapy is discontinued, or if the filter becomes damaged or determined to be otherwise not clean and safe to use.
- C. Clean spirometer mouth piece with appropriate cleaning agent (typically 70% isopropyl alcohol) after each patient use.

Current expected practices: Refer to current Expected Practices (EP) posted in the DHS Share point accessible from the Rancho intranet -> DHS Home page-> COVID-19 Resources, Testing, Vaccine & Mandates photo link -> Expected Practices link as well as the Rancho Sharepoint -> Coronavirus COVID-19 photo link-> Guidelines & Resources. These sites provide the most up to date guidelines, recommendations and expected practices for management of the COVID-19 pandemic


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