



# Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

## DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

---

**SUBJECT: MONITORING OF VENTILATOR  
DEPENDENT PATIENTS**

**Policy No.: P 149  
Supersedes: 12/2019  
Review Date: 02/2023  
Page: 1 of 2**

---

### **PURPOSE:**

To provide guidelines for interdisciplinary staff when providing care and monitoring for ventilator dependent patients.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Patients who are ventilator or tracheostomy dependent will be monitored with continuous or intermittent oximeter when warranted. Oximeter monitor settings shall be set as follows:
  - a. Oxygen saturation alarm parameters: Alarm is below 94% (based on individual patients' condition)
2. Ventilator dependent patient is connected at all times to high priority alarm (ventilator and bed alarm).
3. Each patient will have an emergency respiratory equipment bag with them at all times (Refer to Policy C156- Respiratory Care Management: Emergency Respiratory Equipment Bag).
4. Continuously monitor ventilator alarms and potential causes and implement interventions as needed.
5. Patients who are fulltime ventilator-dependent must be accompanied by trained personnel at all times when out of their rooms. On outings outside of the hospital, they must be accompanied by a respiratory care practitioner, an RN, MD and therapy staff members specifically trained to care for ventilator dependent patient.

**KEY POINT:** Any community outings must have a current order from the Pediatric Physician. Outings or passes cannot be ordered by On-call physician or intensivist.

6. Patients with over 2 (two) hours tolerance off the ventilator will be allowed to go to therapy sessions with assistance either by a trained therapist or nursing staff. The patients may also go on recreation therapy outings without a respiratory care practitioner being present, but with specifically trained staff present.

**KEY POINT:** The ventilator must accompany the patient during therapy sessions and outings for easy access if needed for emergency.

### **REFERENCES:**

Caring for the Mechanically Ventilated Patient (2019, January). Lippincott Nursing Center. Retrieved from <https://www.nursingcenter.com/clinical-resources/nursing-pocket-cards/caring-for-the-mechanically-ventilated-patient>

**SUBJECT: MONITORING OF VENTILATOR DEPENDENT PATIENTS**

**Policy No.: P149**  
**Supersedes: 12/2019**  
**Page: 2 of 2**

---

Rancho Los Amigos. *Department of Nursing Policy and Procedure*, Policy C156 – Respiratory Care Management:  
Emergency Respiratory Equipment Bag

**Reviewed By:** Michael Bolaris Chief of Pediatrics  
Melanie Sarino MD  
April Macabuhay BSN, RN, CBIS

**Approved By:** Barry Jordan Chief Medical Officer.

