

HIGH DESERT HEALTH SYSTEM AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: V-121 BAIR HUGGER / BAIR PAWS	POLICY #: 1246
	VERSION: 1
APPROVED BY: ASC Approvers	
DATE APPROVED: 06/28/2016	

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for use of Bair Hugger and Bair Paws throughout the perioperative period.

POLICY: The forced-air patient warming system (Bair Hugger or Bair Paws) may be applied to patients in the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) under the direction and order of the anesthesiologist or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), to prevent and/or treat perioperative hypothermia in the surgical patient.

PROCEDURE:

1. Obtain forced-air warming unit (Bair Hugger or Bair Paws) and an appropriate size disposable Bair Paws Flex gown (gown).
2. Operation of Bair Paws Unit:
 - a. Orient the patient to the device and connect the warming unit hose to the gown's lower right hose port.
 - b. Plug in the Bair Paws unit and adjust the hand held controller to MEDIUM and allow the patient to adjust the temperature to their comfort level.
3. Operation of Bair Hugger Unit:
 - a. Untie and open gown before placing patient on OR table.
 - b. Place gown over the safety belt. (Safety belt should not be placed over any portion of the gown that will inflate or rollup).
 - c. Place the gown on the patient in direct contact with patient's skin and cover with one cotton blanket.
 - d. Roll or accordion-fold the gown away from the surgical site.
 - e. Expose the surgical field by positioning the gown and secure with adhesive strip.

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- f. Insert hose with twisting motion into the cardboard connector on gown until it fits snugly.

The two locations for the hose are in the:
 - Upper hose port of upper body warming
 - Lower left hose port for the lower body warming
- g. When using the gown as an upper body warmer, pull both tie-strip tabs in the gown sleeve to deploy the upper body insert, which can be tied around the arm board.
- h. If the patient is intubated, the head drape can be positioned for additional warmth. To deploy head drape, look for the blue dot tucked into the neckline area and pull head drape out.
- i. Plug in the Bair Hugger unit and turn it ON by pushing the MEDIUM (38°C) button.
- j. Adjust the temperature by pushing the LOW (32°C), MEDIUM (38°C), HIGH (43°C), or AMBIENT buttons.
- k. Do not use **HIGH** setting on patients with significant peripheral vascular disease (occlusive or diabetic).
- l. If an alarm sounds and the red OVER TEMPERATURE light illuminates or amber FAULT light flashes, turn unit **OFF** and discontinue use. Take Bair Hugger out of the service, refer to Handling of Malfunctioning equipment Policy XII-121 and call the Bio-Medical Department.
4. Monitor the patient’s temperature every 15 minutes when Bair Hugger unit is in use.
5. If unit becomes soiled, wipe off with appropriate ASC-approved disinfectant.
6. Do not warm a patient with warming unit hose alone.

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