



Department of Nursing POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 236
VERSION: 1

SUBJECT: CLIPPERS FOR HAIR REMOVAL

POLICY: Hair removal prior to an ECG or a procedure may be necessary to improve the quality of the tracing. Hair is a non-conductive material and can compromise the adhesion of an electrode.

PURPOSE: Hair removal involves only the area of the procedure site, and the proximal surrounding area. One goal of hair removal is to reduce the risk of site infection by removing soil and transient microorganisms from the skin with the least amount of tissue irritation. A second goal for hair removal is to improve the quality of an ECG tracing.

PROCEDURE:

How to use the 3M Surgical Clipper:

1. Attach – After removing the backing from the blade packaging, hold the clipper handle at a 45-degree angle and snap on a single-use blade.
2. Push – Position blade at 15 to 30 degrees to skin surface. Gently push the clipper forward across the patient's skin, clipping "against the grain" of hair.

OR

3. Pull – Rotate blade 180 degrees and position 15 to 30 degrees to skin surface.
4. Gently pull toward you or "rake" the clipper gently across the patient's skin.
5. Do not use excessive pressure to push the clipper down on the patient's skin.
6. Let the clipper glide across the skin surface.
7. Remove – Holding at a 45-degree angle to the clipper, "pop off" used blade into a sharps waste receptacle.

Note: To eliminate cross-contamination, use a new blade for each patient.

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How to clean the 3M Surgical Clipper:

- Wipe – With the clipper in the “off” position and the blade already removed, wipe clipper handle with the approved hospital disinfectant after each use and allow to air dry (requires 2-3 minutes contact time for HIV and HBV disinfection).

Note: Do not immerse in water.

When not in use, store clipper handle in “off” position in charger. Yellow light indicates charging mode. An 8-hour recharge provides approximately 60 minutes of run time. Charging more than 8 hours will not result in longer run time.

REFERENCE:

3M Surgical Clipper with Pivoting Head instructions at www.3mhealthcare.co.uk

Approved By: Susan Knapp (CHIEF NURSING OFFICER I)	
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