

VALLEYCARE
OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS
RESPIRATORY CARE SERVICES – NICU
POLICY & PROCEDURE

NUMBER: 1570
VERSION: 1

SUBJECT/TITLE: **RESPIRATORY THERAPY SUPPORT IN THE NICU**

POLICY: The Respiratory Care Department will follow the outline below when providing support in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

PURPOSE: To outline respiratory therapy support for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

DEPARTMENTS: **RESPIRATORY CARE SERVICES**

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE:

1. A trained Neonatal Respiratory Care Practitioner will be assigned and available at all times to the NICU to manage the respiratory care of the neonates as specified in the [Respiratory Care Staffing in the NICU, Policy # 11194](#)
2. Oxygen monitoring will be available for each patient unit.
3. All STAT pH and Blood Gas results will be dealt with priority and will be reported within a reasonable amount of time.
4. The ultimate responsibility for the mechanical function of respiratory care equipment lies with the respiratory care practitioner assigned to the Neonatal Care units.
5. It is the responsibility of the nurse caring for each infant monitored or assisted by respiratory care equipment to observe the infant's condition in relation to the expected outcomes of the monitoring, assistive devices,
 - a. The registered nurse will be expected to understand the basic principles connected with the use of each device.
 - b. The registered nurse will be expected to appropriately respond to emergency situations in which malfunction of the equipment occurs; i.e., CPR.
6. All respiratory care will be administered under the direct orders of a physician/ nurse practitioner.
7. The respiratory care services department is responsible for providing these standards of care for the NICU.

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References:	
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