

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER
RESPIRATORY CARE SERVICES - ADULT
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 855
VERSION: 1**

SUBJECT/TITLE: ICU STAFFING

POLICY: One or more Respiratory Care Practitioners will be assigned to the ICU at all times whenever respiratory therapy is required on an ongoing basis.

PURPOSE: To assure proper monitoring of ventilated patients in the ICU and timely intervention in emergent situations of the ventilated and non-ventilated patient.

DEPARTMENTS: RESPIRATORY CARE SERVICES

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE: The number of RCPs assigned to the ICU will be based on census and acuity. The maximum patient to RCP ratio required by Title 22 for ICUs is four (4) patients on life support systems (ventilators) to one (1) RCP. However, every effort will be made to dedicate staff to the ICU when more than two (2) or more ventilators are in operation.

This policy is based on the Society of Critical Care Medicine Standards for Ventilated Patients. The following guidelines are excerpts from the minimum acceptable levels of services for ventilated patients in ICUs that have been adopted in this facility.

1. For ventilator dependent patients the variables that must be recorded at least every two hours include:
 - Fio2 (fractional concentration of oxygen)
 - Mode of ventilation
 - Ve (minute ventilation)
 - Vt (tidal volume)
 - PIP (peak inspiratory pressure)
 - MAP (mean airway pressure)
 - temperature of inspired gas
 - Sao2 (arterial hemoglobin saturation)
 - Confirmation that all alarms are set to appropriate levels.
 - ET tube patency and position
 - At intervals determined by clinical circumstances ABGs (arterial blood

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gases)

2. The Critical Care Respiratory Care Practitioner will:

- Attend patient care rounds with the medical team and nursing at the bedside
- Attend X-ray rounds with the medical team when acuity and census permit
- Actively participate in the discussion of their patient’s medical management
- Screen, test and wean patient per Ventilator Weaning Protocol.

3. Continuing Education:

Will be provided by the Respiratory Care Services Department in multiple forms:

- Lectures from physicians where CE units will be provided
- Current publications
- Educational hand out materials requiring timely response.
- Educational topics via Policy & Procedure Management (PPM)

It is the responsibility of the ICU RCP to obtain critical care educational materials from the department’s educational coordinator and demonstrate in a timely fashion a thorough understanding of the material and its application to the management of ventilated patients.

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| References: | |
| Approved by: Arnold Panganiban (Chief of Respiratory Therapy), Nikhil Barot () | Date: 05/17/2019 |
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