

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

NUMBER: 909

VERSION: 1

SUBJECT/TITLE: VENTILATOR CIRCUIT CHANGE INTERVAL

POLICY: Ventilator circuits and the in-line suction catheters are to be changed PRN, when soiled, or non-functional.

PURPOSE: Explanation of the need to change ventilator circuits and at what intervals.

DEPARTMENTS: RESPIRATORY CARE SERVICES

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE: Justification for Circuit Changes
VAP (Ventilator Acquired Pneumonia) is a nosocomial infection. Suspect is the pattern of oral care, airway removal of secretions (i.e. suction of ETT), and frequency of ventilator circuit changes.

Circuit Change Interval

Ventilator circuits and the inline suction catheters are to be changed PRN, when soiled or non-functional.

The circuit change includes:

- Ventilator circuit.
- Humidification chambers.
- Water humidification reservoir.
- All filters.
- In line suction equipment.

Contraindications

- Presence of conditions in the patient's cardiopulmonary or neurological status that might make tolerance of disconnection from mechanical ventilation hazardous to the patient.
- Inability to safely and effectively ventilate or maintain patient during the ventilator circuit change.
- Absence of a clean and functional circuit to use as a replacement.

HHN equipment should not be left in-line when not in use. They may accumulate condensate and grow bacteria that may be nebulized directly into the patient's

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airway.

All circuit changes are to be documented on the patient ventilator flow sheet.

References:	
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