

VALLEYCARE
OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
POLICY & PROCEDURE

NUMBER: 1010
VERSION: 1

SUBJECT/TITLE: OXYGEN THERAPY

MD ORDER: YES [X] NO []

POLICY: Oxygen therapy will be provided to patients requiring it as part of their prescribed treatment plan in a safe and effective manner.

PURPOSE: To clearly define the procedure used by clinical care personnel when delivering oxygen therapy to patients

DEPARTMENTS: NURSING, Respiratory Therapy

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE: **STEPS/KEY POINTS:**

1. Low flow oxygen via nasal cannula (≤ 4 LPM) does not require a bubble humidifier. A humidifier should be used only if the patient complains of nasal drying or a sore throat.
2. Pre-filled, disposable humidifiers are provided for single patient use and are replaced as needed.
3. In addition to the crash cart oxygen tank, one standby oxygen unit should be available on the units at all times.

OXYGEN DELIVERY :

1. **Nasal cannula:**
 - a. Connect the cannula to the humidifier. Before placing the cannula on the patient, turn the flow meter to 5 liters and allow the oxygen to flow freely for 30 seconds. This will flush the cannula and tubing of any debris and prevent possible aspiration.
 - b. Set rate of oxygen flow as ordered by physician (maximum oxygen flow for the nasal cannula is 6 liters per minute, unless directed otherwise by the physician.
2. **Oxygen Mask (simple):**
 - a. Observe the patient frequently to assure the mask is properly

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positioned over the nose and mouth. Set the flow meter to a minimum of 5 liters.

- b. If patient does not seem to improve, based on parameters as ordered by the physician e.g. respiratory rate and/or oxygen saturation,, notify the physician and then call Respiratory Therapist immediately to evaluate the patient.
- c. Documentation requirements are missing from the procedure

References:	
Approved by: Dellone Pascascio (Chief Nursing Officer), Edward Richard Lind (Chief of Respiratory Therapy)	Date: 03/06/2015
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