# **Assistance with Oxygen Administration**



### NURSE DELEGATION: INSTRUCTIONS FOR GENERAL NURSING TASK

General delegated tasks are those tasks that the Nurse identifies as general in nature and once learned can be performed for all residents. The Caregiver to whom the task is delegated must demonstrate ability to perform the task as instructed by the Nurse. By signing this delegation form, the Caregiver being delegated agrees to perform the task as taught. The nurse will review Caregiver performance annually or as needed to assure continued competency in performance of the task.

# General Task: ASSISTANCE WITH ADMINISTRATION OF OXYGEN (with portable concentrator/portable tank and nasal cannula)

### Supplies Needed

- 1. Concentrator or Portable Tank with flow meter to regulate gas flow in liters per minute
- 2. Small-bore oxygen supply tubing for nasal cannula
- 3. Nasal cannula
- 4. Humidifier. Always check water level of humidifier attached to concentrator. Refill as needed
- 5. Sterile or distilled water
- 6. Disposable non-sterile gloves, disinfectant and/or manufacturer's recommended solutions to clean respiratory equipment, and an impermeable plastic trash bag (infection control)
- 7. Handwashing solution

### Procedures/Steps to Follow to Perform the Task

- 1. Gather equipment.
- 2. Connect the nasal cannula to the oxygen tubing and the tubing to the humidified oxygen source.
- 3. Adjust the oxygen flow meter to prescribed liter flow.
- 4. Place the tips of the cannula no more than 1.25 cm into the resident's nares. Adjust the plastic slide guard for a snug, comfortable fit.
- 5. Secure the oxygen tubing to the clothing to prevent unnecessary pulling.
- 6. Clean and change equipment (tubing, cannula, humidifier and concentrator filter) as needed or as ordered by physician or manufacturer.
- 7. Promote resident comfort by doing the following:
  - Instruct resident to place cotton balls over the ears or wrap moleskin around the tubing to prevent skin irritation. Foam curlers that have been split lengthwise and placed around the tubing may be used over the ears to reduce pressure from the tubing.
  - If resident complains of dryness of nares, use a water-based lubricant on the nares to reduce irritation of the nose. (Must be approved by Nurse/MD.)
  - The resident may use 50-foot extension tubing to maximize independence and ambulation in the living area (Must be approved by Nurse/MD.)
- 8. Clean and replace the equipment. Discard disposable items according to Standard Precautions
- 9. Document completion of procedure in MAR.
- 10. Wash hands with handwashing solution

#### Outcomes

- 1. Will receive supplemental oxygen at the rate prescribed by the physician.
- 2. Will have improved oxygenation and respiratory comfort.

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### **Untoward Outcomes:**

- 1. Resident may experience drying of nasal passages that sometimes can result in nose bleeds. If this occurs, notify the Nurse who can get physician to order a water-based lubricant. If the oxygen delivery system does not have a humidifier, the Nurse can help obtain a room humidifier to prevent drying of mucosal membranes.
- 2. Infection can occur if humidifier or other equipment is not cleaned regularly. Clean the humidifier daily to prevent nebulizing mold or bacteria. Change tubing and cannula as prescribed by physician or equipment manufacturer.
- 3. Use oxygen only at prescribed amounts because too little or to much is harmful and can cause death.

# Potential Risks/Side Effects and Appropriate Actions to Deal with them (include what to observe for and report, what to do, and whom to contact

- 1. Power failure can disrupt oxygen delivery, placing resident at risk for respiratory distress. If back-up power system should fail, notify emergency personnel (911), and call Administrator/Nurse immediately.
- 2. Fire danger
  - Oxygen is not flammable or explosive, but it does support combustion; anything that burns in an oxygen-rich environment burns faster and hotter.
  - No open flames or smoking are allowed inside the room in which oxygen is being used.
  - Do not use electrical equipment that may cause sparks from an electrical short near oxygen administration equipment.
  - Care should be taken during use of gas/electric appliances with residents using oxygen.
  - Oxygen concentrators should be plugged into a grounded electrical outlet.
  - Keep oxygen concentrator at least 6 inches from wall or other surface to provide good air flow.
  - For questions regarding supplies, contact the oxygen vendor.

REPORT ANY PROBLEMS WITH OXYGEN EQUIPMENT OR RESIDENT DISCOMFORT TO NURSE.

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General Task: Assistance with Oxygen Administration

| Signature of CAREGIVER | Signature of Delegating Nurse | Delegation Competency<br>Review Date |
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