Seventy-Two (72) Hour Re-Order or Discontinuation of Therapy

Purpose

To establish guidelines to assure the continuation of indicated therapy and to discontinue unnecessary therapy on patients in general care areas.

Audience

Physicians, Nursing, Staff, and Respiratory Care Services Clinical Staff.

Scope

Patients receiving respiratory care shall be evaluated at 72 hours to determine and document therapeutic outcome in order to assist the physician in assuring optimal patient care.

This policy applies to all patients receiving respiratory care and oxygen therapy in the general care areas

Procedure

General

- All therapy is discontinued when a written order from a physician is obtained, when a patient is discharged or when a patient goes to surgery.
- Prescribed therapy is discontinued in the event of an adverse reaction to therapy/medication and the physician is notified.
- Transfers from Intensive Care Units to general care areas require a new written order for the continuation of therapy.

Seventy Two Hour Stop/Re-Order

- Therapy may be discontinued 72 hours after the initial treatment if clinical assessment indicates that therapeutic objectives have been met.
- The Respiratory Therapist will assess and document clinical outcomes in the notes section of Epic in standard SOAP format.
- The Respiratory Therapist must inform the physician if therapy is no longer warranted; a physician's order to discontinue therapy after seventy-two hours is required.
- Therapy that is clinically indicated at the end of the seventy-two hour period will be continued and re-evaluated in 72 hours for therapeutic effect.

Corresponding Policies

RCS Policy and Procedure Manual, Guidelines for Medical Record Documentation, # 7.1.1.