Oxygen Assessment Protocol

Purpose

To standardize the assessment of a patient's oxygenation status to ensure that a therapeutic level of oxygen is being delivered. To identify those patients with a history or chronic hypercarbia who may be at risk for oxygen-induced hypoventilation. To establish guidelines for the therapeutic application of O_2.

Scope

This document outlines the procedure for performing O_2 assessments and an algorithm for applying Oxygen Therapy.

Audience

This document is intended for use by Licensed Respiratory Care Practitioners.

Procedure

1	Obtain pulse oximeter.
2	Check patient's medical record for O_2 order, medical history and ABG results.
3	Introduce yourself and verify patient ID.
4	Wash hands.
5	Begin Algorithm for Oxygen Assessment.
6	Titrate downward in 1-liter increments or .1% FIO_2 increments until desired SPO_2 is obtained.
7	Titrate upward in 1-liter increments or .1% FIO_2 increments.
8	Document Respiratory Care flow sheet whenever a titration procedure has been performed. Communicate with nursing personnel as to any changes made.
9	Document per PCS Policies 7.1.1, 7.1.2, and 7.1.3.

Infection Control

Follow procedures outlined in Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures #2.24; Respiratory Care Services.
http://www.utmb.edu/policy/hcepidem/search/02-24.pdf

Continued next page

References

AARC Clinical Practice Guidelines; Oxygen Therapy in the Acute Care Hospital, Respiratory Care; 1991; 38:1410-1413.

AARC Clinical Practice Guidelines, Pulse Oximetry, Respiratory Care, December 1991, 36; 12 1406-1409.

Cunningham B. Oxygen Protocols for the Prevention of Hypoxemia. A Review for Case Managers. Journal of Case Management. 1997; 6:3-7.

Hagarty EM, Langbein WE, Skorodin MS, Hultman CI, Jessen JA, Fink JB. Use of Pulse Oximetry to Determine Oxygen Prescription for Hypoxemic Patients With COPD, Respiratory Care. 1996; 41:30-6.

Bagshaw O, Gillis J, Schell D. Delayed Recognition of Esophageal Intubation in a Neonate: Role of radiologic Diagnosis, Critical Care Medicine 1994; 22:2020-3.

Branson RD. The Nuts and Bolts of Increasing Arterial Oxygenation: Devices and Techniques, Respiratory Care. 1993; 38:672-86.