Guidelines for Performing Electrocardiograms

Purpose

To standardize the role and training of Respiratory Care Services staff performing EKG's.

Scope

Respiratory Care Services will assist the Heart Station department by performing EKG's. (This will reduce response time and improve the timelines of patient care.)

Accountability/Training

- Licensed Respiratory Care Practitioners
- Trained by Heart Station Personnel and completed check-offs with EKG technician.

Equipment and Supplies

- EKG machine
- Adhesive electrodes

Procedure

Step	Action
1	Prepare the patient (see Section II of Operator's Guide). **Remember:** • Verify patient ID. • Explain procedure. • Ask patient to relax, be still and quiet. • Female patients appreciate privacy.
Note	Unlike limb electrodes, which can be placed anywhere on the arms or legs, the chest electrodes should be placed no more than a quarter of an inch (6mm) away from the designated location.
2	Position electrodes: VI - Fourth intercostal space at right Border of Sternum. V2 - Fourth intercostal space at left Border of Sternum. V3 - Midway between positions 2 and 4. V4 - At the mid-clavicular line and the inter-space in which the apex is located (the 5th intercostal space is used if the apex is not palpable). V5 - At the anterior axillary line on the same horizontal level as V4. V6 - At the mid-axillary line on the same horizontal level as V4 and V5.

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Procedure Continued

Step	Action
3	Type information: • Patient information per prompts. • Unit history number
4	Initiate EKG (see Section III of Operator's Guide).
Note:	• EKG machines are to be plugged in and turned on at all times (machines are currently kept in the following areas: ED, 4A, 5D, 6A, 7B, 9D, and TDC). • When an EKG is run, the time printed on the EKG should be transposed onto the request. • One copy should be made of all EKG's and kept with the request. • Respiratory Care Services staff will perform EKG's for the Shriners Hospital from 1700-0500. • The Heart Station will pick up the EKG's and requests for the previous 24-hour period daily.

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

References

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