Neonatal Transport (Outside Hospital)

Purpose

To provide safe transport of neonatal patients requiring intensive respiratory care, oxygen or mechanical ventilation, or specialized oxygen delivery systems (CPAP), manual bag resuscitation, etc.

Audience

Employees of Respiratory Care Service trained in patient transport with understanding of age specific requirements.

Policy

- Respiratory Care Services provides oxygen and operates the ventilatory equipment necessary for transport of the critically ill neonatal patient.
- The transport therapist will be directly accountable to the accompanying neonatal transport nurse.
- The supervisor in charge of selecting the therapist to make the transport must make a selection that will not affect departmental staffing. If at all possible, a therapist will accompany the neonatal transport nurse for the following:
    - Infants being transported from an outside hospital to UTMB with respiratory distress
    - Infants requiring mechanical ventilation/ Nasal CPAP
    - Infants requiring supplemental oxygen
- All eligible transport therapists should have prior transport experience or training. Preference should be given to a therapist familiar with that patient's respiratory therapy needs or working in the area responsible for that patient's care.
- The neonatal transport nurse should contact the Respiratory Care Services supervisor as soon as possible and notify of an impending neonatal transport. Information required: the patient's name, level of respiratory support, destination, and estimated time of departure.
- The Supervisor will select and notify the therapist that will be performing the transport.
- The neonatal transport nurse will collect and maintain the necessary equipment and supplies in the neonatal transport office; the transport therapist will check the respiratory equipment and tanks on the transport isolette to verify function and readiness at the time of notification of need for transport. The equipment will be taken to ISCU while awaiting EMS for transport.
- Document as per RCS Policies # 7.1.1 and # 7.1.2.

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

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