# Equipment Change-Out

## Purpose

To provide infection control guidelines for respiratory care personnel at UTMB. All therapists are required to adhere to the following guidelines in order to decrease the likelihood of transmitting nosocomial infections to patients.

## Audience

All employees of the Respiratory Care Services department.

## Scope

Equipment changes will be performed according to specified frequency by a qualified respiratory care practitioner

## Policy

Disposable equipment will never be reused. Equipment will be changed out according to the following schedule:

- Closed circuit suction catheters: once a week or as needed in all areas except ISCU. Suction Catheters in ISCU will be changed out every other day
- Small Volume Nebulizers: will be dated and changed out weekly.
- Aerosol Nebulizers: as needed in all areas.
- Nasal cannulas, simple facemasks, and non-rebreather masks: as needed in all areas except ISCU. In ISCU, cannulas running at low flows and the cannula portion of a high flow set-up will be changed weekly. The circuit portion of the high flow set-up will be changed out bi-weekly.
- Nasal CPAP/BiPAP masks and tubing: as needed in all areas except ISCU. In ISCU, all components of the circuit will be changed our bi-weekly and more often as necessary.
- Ventilator circuits: as needed all areas except ISCU. In ISCU they will be changed bi-weekly.
- Bacteria filters placed on the exhalation side of the ventilator secondary to nebulizer therapy will be changed after each treatment.

## Procedure

Equipment will be inspected with every treatment given. If it is soiled, it will be replaced. Equipment will be changed on schedule and disposed of according to Infection Control guidelines.

All equipment not in continuous use will be stored in a set-up bag to avoid contamination and accidental disposal.

Small pieces of reusable equipment that are contaminated are to be transported to the Respiratory Care Services Department in decontamination bags and properly cleaned for reuse according to Epidemiology Policy Guidelines.

Do not reprocess any equipment or device that is manufactured for single use only.

Equipment in use (ventilators, etc.) will be cleaned once a shift with a disinfectant solution and more often as necessary. (Refer to the Processing

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and Sterilization Protocol Guidelines regarding further details on equipment cleaning.)

**Infection Control**

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

**Correspond Ing Policies**

RCS Policy and Procedure Manual, Infection Control, #7.3.3

RCS Policy and Procedure Manual, Processing and Sterilization Protocol, #7.3.4

**References**

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Hess D, Burns E, Romagnoli D, Kacmarek RM. Weekly ventilator circuit changes. A strategy to reduce costs without affecting pneumonia rates. Anesthesiology. 1995; 82:903-911.

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