Loss of Medical Vacuum

Purpose

In the event the hospital should experience a local or house wide loss of medical vacuum, an emergency source of vacuum will be made available.

Audience

All hospital Patient Care Staff.

Scope

Respiratory Care Services (RCS) will make available for distribution AC or DC powered pumps for patients who require. Electrically powered portable suction units may be obtained through the Clinical Equipment Services Department for additional floor care use.

Indications

- The acute, unscheduled loss of pipeline medical vacuum.
- Scheduled loss of pipeline medical vacuum (repairs, system upgrading).

Goals

To provide an emergency source of vacuum to patients requiring the need of vacuum (i.e., suctioning, chest tube, nasogastric tube).

Equipment

- Electrically powered portable suction unit.
- Appropriate supplies for airway care, nasogastric care, or chest tube care.

Procedure

The first attempts to obtain portable vacuum equipment should be made through Respiratory Care Services.

Step	Action
1	Contact Respiratory Care Service dispatcher, extension 21635.
2	Inform dispatcher or Supervisor of location/area affected.
3	Provide a list of patients who need vacuum devices.
4	Respiratory Care Service will dispatch the placement of gas powered units to the area, set-up and check the unit's function.
5	Respiratory Care Service will contact Physical Plant Plumbing Department regarding the extent of the problem and measures to be taken. If the incident occurs after regular office hours, the on duty Supervisor is to contact the Respiratory Care Service Manager on-call.

References

UTMB Emergency Procedures Manual: Loss of Medical Gas and/or Medical Air http://webb.utmb.edu/envcare/epm.htm

UTMB Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures: Sentinel Events Policy # 9.13.16, http://www.utmb.edu/policy/ihop/search/09-13-16.pdf

JCAHO: Management of the Environment of Care; EC.1.7, Medical Gas Management http://www.utmb.edu/JCAHO/