
Interfacility High Flow Nasal Oxygen (HFNO)

- I. Indications
 - A. Order from sending facility/physician
 - B. Hypoxic respiratory failure, from COVID-19 or other respiratory process
- II. Contraindications
 - A. Inability to provide continuous, heated humidification using an approved delivery device
 - B. Inability to provide therapy through appropriately sized nasal prongs
 - C. Insufficient supply of oxygen to complete the transport
- III. Procedure
 - A. Ensure that an adequate supply of oxygen is available for the transport.
 - i. Calculate the amount of oxygen needed prior to departure.
 - ii. Ensure that you have at least two times the amount of oxygen anticipated.
 - B. Perform appropriate patient assessment, including obtaining vital signs, pulse oximeter reading, cardiac rhythm, and current device settings
 - C. Set FiO₂ to maintain SpO₂ at or above 94% (or to patient's baseline oxygen saturation, if known). Utilize facility settings as starting point, if available.
 - D. Set flow rate in liters per minute (L/min) to decrease work of breathing.
 - i. Utilize facility settings as starting point, if available.
 - ii. Flow calculation: 2 L/kg/min up to the first 12 kg, plus 0.5 L/kg/min for each kg thereafter, up to a maximum flow rate of 60 L/min.
 - E. Reassess vitals, work of breathing, mental status, and breath sounds. Reassessment should be continuous, but documentation of vitals must occur at least every five minutes throughout patient contact.
 - F. Consider the need for escalation of respiratory support if patient remains in respiratory failure on more than 2 L/kg/min of flow or maximum settings for the delivery device.
 - G. If patient deterioration occurs, terminate HFNO and begin positive pressure respiratory support via CPAP, BIPAP, BVM, or intubation, if necessary.
- IV. Notes
 - A. Pediatric patients must be accompanied by a nurse, nurse practitioner, respiratory therapist, or physician, who is credentialed and competent in dealing with the equipment.
 - B. For suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients, personnel must don respirators, eye protection, gowns, and gloves for transport.