DEFINITIONS:

To deliver a fine spray of medication or moisture to a patient with the use of nebulizer. Nebulization is the production of a fog or mist.

POLICY:

Upon provider order, nebulizer treatments will be given by nursing staff as directed using proper technique and universal precautions.

PROCEDURE:

Supplies & Equipment:
- Nebulizer machine
- Nebulizer circuits with face mask (optional)
- 3cc syringe (if applicable)
- Pulse oximeter with appropriate size probe
- Oxygen tank on stand-by

Medication:
- For pediatric patients: Appropriate solutions such as: Xopenex, Normal Saline (kept in refrigerator), premixed Albuterol Solution (alternative)
- For adult patients: Albuterol solution (premixed in medication cabinet), Xopenex solution (premixed in medication cabinet)

1. Obtain needed equipment and ordered medication to set up in the exam room.
2. Wash your hands.
3. Check the patient’s pulse and respiratory rate. Document the values in the medical record.
4. Obtain a pulse oximeter reading. Place the pulse oximeter on the patient to obtain a reading (See Pulse Oximeter Procedure). Record the value in the medical record. Inform
the provider immediately if readings are low (80s or low 90s) and have an oxygen tank nearby.

5. Draw up the ordered medication in the provided dropper and place in the medicine cup of the nebulizer circuit. Add 2 cc of normal saline into the medicine cup and connect the tubing to the medicine cup and machine. Premixed solutions may be used if available in the correct dosage.

6. Plug the nebulizer machine into the wall electrical receptacle.

7. Instruct the patient on how to use the nebulizer appropriately. Instruct the patient that it may take approximately 5 minutes to complete the treatment.

8. Turn the machine on.

9. When all the medication is gone from the medicine cup turn the machine off. Dispose of the nebulizer circuits in a waste receptacle. Return the nebulizer to the storage area and any unused medication to the refrigerator.

10. Wash your hands.

11. Notify the provider that the treatment is completed.

RELATED POLICY:

REFERENCES:
See also

REQUIRED BY:

ATTACHMENTS/ENCLOSURES:
TITLE: Nebulizer Treatment

Scope/Purpose: To deliver medication or moisture to the trachea, bronchi and/or lungs.

Division/Department: All HealthPOiNT Clinics

Policy/Procedure #: Original Date: September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008

___New ___Replacement for:

Date Reviewed: Date Revised: Implementation: CPIC Approved: Board Approved:

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Date of Revision Description of Changes

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