



CHARLOTTESVILLE-ALBEMARLE RESCUE SQUAD CLINICAL REVIEW AND TRAINING

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Guideline

Purpose: To establish guideline for the use of the CPAP device.

Policy: The goals of CPAP are to eliminate dyspnea, decrease respiratory and heart rate, increase oxygen saturation, and stabilize blood pressure.

Indications

1. Any patient who is in moderate to severe respiratory distress with signs and symptoms consistent with asthma, COPD, pulmonary edema, CHF, or pneumonia and who:
 - a. Is awake and able to follow commands
 - b. Is over 12 years old and is able to fit the CPAP mask to face
 - c. Has the ability to maintain an open airway
 - d. **AND** exhibits two or more of the following:
 - i. Spontaneous RR > 25 breaths per minute
 - ii. $\text{SaO}_2 \leq 94\%$ at any time
 - iii. Accessory muscle use during respirations
2. Near-drowning with intact mentation and full cooperation
3. A DNR is not a contraindication to CPAP

Contraindications

1. Suspected pneumothorax or chest trauma
2. Altered mentation or not able to follow commands
3. Facial trauma or inability to fit mask to face
4. Respiratory or cardiac arrest
5. Agonal respirations
6. Vomiting or active GI bleeding with emesis
7. Inability to maintain patent airway
8. Hypotension with SBP < 90 mmHg

Monitoring

1. Continuous pulse oximetry with adequate waveform
2. Continuous waveform capnography (Medic only)
3. Continuous ECG monitoring (Medic only)
4. Vital signs **every 5 minutes**

Procedure

1. Place patient in a seated position.
2. **Explain procedure to the patient*.**
3. Connect generator to oxygen source.
4. Place mask over mouth and nose and manually seal against face. Allow patient to assist if necessary.
5. **Talk to the patient for the first several minutes to encourage them to tolerate the mask.**
6. Adjust mask to eliminate leaks and secure appropriately with straps provided.
7. Recheck for air leaks.
8. Continue the follow appropriate **Respiratory Distress Protocol** as outlined by TJEMS.



CHARLOTTESVILLE-ALBEMARLE RESCUE SQUAD CLINICAL REVIEW AND TRAINING

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Guideline

Documentation

1. Pre-hospital impression as to why CPAP was chosen
2. Vital signs (BP, HR, RR, SaO₂, mental status) recorded **every 5 minutes**
3. Description of patient's response to CPAP

Special Considerations

1. If respiratory or mental status deteriorates, remove device and consider intermittent positive pressure ventilation via BVM or secure airway appropriately.
2. Do not remove the device unless the patient cannot tolerate the mask or experiences respiratory or cardiac arrest or begins to vomit.
3. When contacting hospital, advise the charge nurse or MedCom to consider paging the respiratory therapist. Upon arrival to hospital, do not remove CPAP until hospital therapy is ready to be placed on the patient.
4. Maintain adequate on oxygen supply (see below).
5. When using a portable tank, conserve oxygen. Use the following table to determine approximate time of usage of a full cylinder:

Cylinder Size	30% FiO ₂
D (Portable)	30 minutes
M (Truck)	240 minutes

*The phrases below may be used to help the patient breathe normally and avoid hyperventilation:

1. "You are having trouble breathing because your heart is not pumping well enough right now and fluid is backing up into your lungs."
2. "I am going to put this mask on your face to help push air into your lungs and push the fluid out."
3. "It will feel a little strange at first, but you will notice right away that your breathing will be a lot easier."
4. "Just relax, breath normally, and you will see this will really help."