Capnography

Number: PTMC-RESP-07AD003

PURPOSE

Capnography may be used as a trending device for ventilation assessment and as an early warning system for changing patient ventilatory status. Capnography is required for patients using PCAs with the exception of Palliative Care patients not receiving treatment.

POLICY

1. The Respiratory therapists are responsible for setting up, calibrating, maintaining and cleaning the CO2 sensor.
2. Capnography can be used in the following types of patients and/or at the physician's discretion;
   1. Conscious sedation during procedure
   2. Post operative
   3. Weaning from the ventilator
   4. Acute Respiratory Failure
   5. ARDS
3. Capnography can be used with patients requiring assisted Ventilation or as a monitoring device for conscious sedation or pain management.
4. The Etc02 monitor should be placed as close to the patient airway as possible and the window must be monitored and kept free of secretions for ventilated patients.
5. ABG's will be drawn and the Arterial CO2 will be correlated to the ETCO2 reading for purposes of trending for ventilated patients.
6. When using the ETCO2 for conscious sedation be aware that if the patient becomes apneic the CO2 reading will approach 0 because it is not picking up any flow.

PROCEDURE/GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wash hands.
2. Gather equipment. Check patient identification
3. Plug monitor in and switch power on.

4. Calibrate the monitor by;
   a. Attaching sensor cable to the first window on the cable.
   b. Press the cal button on the monitor module.
   c. Follow the instructions on the monitor screen.
   d. Move sensor cable to the second window and repeat the steps on the monitor screen.

5. Attach the airway (window side up) to sensor cable and attach to the patient as close to the ET tube as possible or place nasal cannula on patient and attach one side to oxygen flowmeter and the other to the monitor.

6. Keep the window part of the sensor in the upright position to ensure that secretions don't pool into the window area.

7. Using the Philips monitor, set up the alarm limits and wave pattern by following the instructions on the screen if using with ventilated patient.

8. Correlate the Etco2 with an arterial blood gas if appropriate.

9. Assess patient as per Assessment policy and procedure.

**CLEANING:**

1. All parts that attach to patient are disposable. Do not reuse.

2. Wipe down the monitor with bacteriostatic solution.

**DOCUMENTATION:**

1. Document on ventilator flow sheet Q 2 hours per charting policy and procedures.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments