



Oxygen Administration



1 Preparing for the procedure

- Perform hand hygiene.
- Introduce self to patient.
- Identify indication for oxygen therapy.
- Explain procedure to patient and obtain verbal consent.
- Connect oxygen tubing to face mask or nasal prongs.
- Connect other end of oxygen tubing to oxygen flow meter.
- Set appropriate oxygen flow rate.



2 Performing the procedure

- Face mask must cover nose and mouth and gently stretch elastic band over patient's head. Adjust nose clip and elastic band to ensure a snug but comfortable fit.
- Nasal prongs are positioned with curves towards the nostrils directing oxygen upwards into the nose. Fit tubing over both ears and secure with toggle under the chin.
- Stay with patient until they are comfortable.
- Assess patient's response to oxygen.



3 Additional information

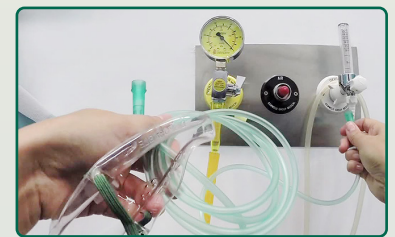
- Ensure patient is monitored at regular intervals for effectiveness of therapy.
- When patient is stable oxygen dose should be gradually decreased and oxygen needs reassessed.
- Within Australia, oxygen administration does not require a medical prescription and as such can be nurse initiated.

Background

Oxygen therapy careful patient assessment and management of the deteriorating patient is one of the Australian National and Quality Health Service Standards developed by the Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health care in 2011. Oxygen therapy is a common intervention for the deteriorating patient.

Equipment required

- Hand sanitiser
- Oxygen source (wall outlet / cylinder)
- Oxygen flow meter
- Oxygen tubing (appropriate to device chosen)
- Oxygen delivery device (mask or nasal cannula)



Checking equipment

- At commencement of shift, ensure oxygen and suction are in sufficient supply and in working order

References

Smith S, Duell D, Martin B. Clinical Nursing Skills: Basic to Advanced Skills. 8th ed. New Jersey: Pearson Education 2012.

Tollefson J. Clinical Psychomotor Skills: Assessment Tools for Nursing Students. 5th ed. Melbourne: Cengage Learning Australia; 2012.

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