Operational Guideline: Optimal Lung Recruitment for the Geriatric Population

Objective:
A standardized protocol of steps to be taken to optimize lung recruitment in the treatment and prevention of atelectasis in the geriatric population after intubation.

Guideline:
1. All patients will be required to have an order for EzPAP placed to be initiated for a minimum of 3 days every 6 hrs. After three days the order can be renewed by the Provider.
2. This will be implemented by respiratory therapists as a treatment with Albuterol Nebulizer. See policy and procedure for Respiratory Therapy- EzPAP Positive Airway Pressure Therapy System.

Indications/Criteria:
1. Patient >65 years of age
2. Patient with an inhalation injury
3. Patient positive for acute delirium
4. Patient not obtaining 500 or greater with incentive spirometer consistently for 24 hours

Contraindications:
Although no absolute contraindications to the use of EzPAP Therapy have been reported, the following should be carefully evaluated before a decision is made to initiate therapy:
1. Inability to tolerated increased work of breathing
2. Intracranial pressure (ICP)>20mmHg
3. Recent facial, oral, or skull surgery or trauma (to be determined by provider)
4. Esophageal surgery
5. Untreated pneumothorax
6. Known or suspected tympanic membrane rupture or another middle ear pathology
7. Hemodynamic instability
8. Acute Sinusitis
9. Epistaxis
10. Active hemoptysis
11. Nausea

What EZPAP does:
2. Allows for both lung expansion and airway clearance in one device.
3. Lung expansion is achieved by the patient exhaling through a fixed orifice flow resistor creating a positive expiratory pressure.
4. Airway clearance is achieved by vibrating the large and small airways thinning and dislodging secretions facilitating mucus clearance.
5. May be used with a mask or mouthpiece.
6. May be used with a nebulizer for bronchodilator therapy.
Procedure:
1. Nurses will ensure patients who meet criteria have the EzPAP therapy ordered.
2. Provider will place order for “Respiratory Therapy- EzPAP: Positive Airway Pressure Therapy System.”
3. Respiratory Therapy will work with nursing staff to ensure patients who have facial burns have received pain medication prior to treatment to minimize discomfort. Nursing may need to assist Therapist with patients who are uncooperative due to delirium.
4. Respiratory Therapist will notify the Provider if patient is refusing treatment so the Provider can speak with the patient regarding the necessity of the treatment. The Provider will also inform the Respiratory Therapist if a patient does not have the decision-making capacity to refuse the treatment.
5. Respiratory Therapist need to ensure documentation of patient non-compliance is adequately documented, including notification of Provider.