

## **Nasal Injury Prevention/Treatment Policy**

### **Objective:**

To provide early detection of changes in skin integrity with the use noninvasive ventilation devices and appropriate and timely intervention.

### **Expectation:**

The respiratory therapist will perform a complete assessment of all patients on noninvasive ventilation 4 to 6 hours depending on each patient's care schedule. This assessment should include taking the interface off of the face to evaluate skin integrity with special attention to pressure points.

### **Class Descriptions:**

Class 0: No redness, abrasion, or pressure ulcer

Class 1: Redness identified

Class 2: Abrasion or bleeding identified

Class 3: Pressure Ulcer identified

### **Guideline:**

The guideline will be the same for any CPAP device.

# CPAP

Complete skin integrity assessment by RT Q4h-Q6h (based on care schedule)

## Class 0

## Class 1

## Class 2

## Class 3

No Redness/Abrasion/Pressure Ulcer

Redness Identified

Abrasion/Bleeding Identified

Pressure Ulcer Identified

### Routine Assessment Includes:

- Assess appropriate hat size every Tuesday
- Assess appropriate size mask/prongs daily
- Pressure barrier must be in place
- Rotate from mask to prongs every 6 to 8 hours at most (based on care schedule)

- Trial to increase frequency of alternating mask and prongs, document and monitor
- Readjust interface to allow for least amount of pressure in area of redness
- Notify Fellow/Attending/NNP and bedside RN, document
- If redness persists and leads to bleeding:
  - Rotate with Vapotherm for 12 hours for pressure relief (consider flows up to 8 LPM)
  - After 12 hours, place patient back on CPAP

- RT to Initiate Safety Huddle (including MD, NNP, Bedside RN, and RT)
- Replace prongs/mask with new ones Q24h
- Unless abrasion is located where the mask will touch, use the mask for 24 hours rather than alternating mask vs prongs
- If abrasion is in the area of the mask, trial Vapotherm for 24 hours
- Once abrasion is healed, patient may be placed back on CPAP

- Order wound consult
- Consider updating nasal culture
- Replace mask and prongs with new ones every 24 hours on day shift
- Consider alternate ventilation strategy
  - Trial Vapotherm (consider higher flows – up to 8 LPM)
  - Intubation and placement on mechanical ventilation until injured area shows signs of healing