

PAEDIATRIC NURSING PRACTICE MANUAL
SECTION 1

NURSING CARE STANDARDS

1.4 MAINTENANCE OF OXYGEN AND SUCTION EQUIPMENT

To ensure that clinical staff have ready access to functional and clean oxygen and suction equipment.

Key points

1. It is the responsibility of nursing staff to test and re-stock oxygen and suction equipment. This must be undertaken each shift, pre admission, post discharge and prior to the return of all postoperative or sedated patients. The checking procedure must be signed for on the nursing care plan.
2. Self inflating bags must be checked as per [PNPM 4.2](#) Checking the Resuscitation Trolley.
3. All oxygen tubing is to be green or clear coloured only.
4. All air flow meters will be removed from the wall when not in use.
5. All air tubing is to be red coloured only (9A may use black tubing when using blenders).
6. High flow meter (for use in emergency) with a simple mask **must be available and working at each bedside.**
7. Low flow oxygen meters – when not in use must not be kept connected/at bedside.

Equipment

Every oxygen and suction outlet will have age/size appropriate equipment and apparatus attached. In general ward areas, each outlet will have a supply of:

Oxygen masks

- 1 infant mask (except ward 7Teen)
- 1 paediatric
- 1 adult

Suction catheters

- 2 x F6 (except ward 7Teen)
- 2 x F8
- 2 x F10
- 2 x F12
- 1x Yankauer sucker

All other wards will keep outlets stocked according to their needs eg. non re-breathing bag, different sized yankauer suckers.

Additional Information

1. The tubing will be:
 - appropriate for its function and long enough for its purpose; for use in an emergency suction tubing must be the length of the patient's bed.
 - labelled with it's purpose, near to the flow meter, when **multiple** oxygen tubing is required (eg. CPAP & Bag/Mask and Hudson mask) to assist identification should an emergency occur.
2. All equipment attached to the oxygen/suction unit will be kept clear of the floor and tangle free.
3. Where Twin-o-Vacs are used, the filter paper and disc will be changed daily when in use. The apparatus will be wiped clean with detergent. **NB.** The thin white filter should be in contact with mesh, followed by the support pad (disc).

All protocols should be read in conjunction with the disclaimer in the preface of this manual

Maintenance of Oxygen and Suction Equipment



Additional Information (cont.)

4. On discharge suction bottles will be rinsed clean and sent for heat decontamination.
5. Any used equipment will be discarded and replaced on patient discharge.

Portable Oxygen & Suction Units

1. All used equipment will be discarded after each patient and replaced.
2. Twin-o-Vacs will be cleaned as above and sent for heat decontamination after each patient use.