

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to look closely at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Failure to Provide High Flow Oxygen during Intra-facility Transfer

The client was diagnosed with aspiration pneumonia and treated with BIPAP in the Emergency Department. When being transferred to the inpatient medical unit, the BIPAP was changed to oxygen via non-breathe mask.

When the client arrived on the medical unit, they were noted to be having difficulty breathing and soon after developed agonal respirations.

The oxygen tank used for the transfer was examined and found to be empty. The patient had a respiratory arrest and resuscitation was unsuccessful.

Keywords:

BiPap, oxygen tank, patient transport

Device Name (if applicable):

Drug/Name/Fluid Name: (if applicable):

Type of Analysis: single event

Topic: Care Management

Findings of the Review:

- The client required high flow oxygen.
- The oxygen level in the tank was not checked prior to transport.
- The staff member who connected the patient to the oxygen tank was new to the Emergency Department and did not know how to check the amount of oxygen in the portable oxygen tank.
- The patient's bedside on the medical unit had not been prepared with the equipment needed by the patient. An oxygen regulator was not connected to the wall oxygen outlet nor had the BIPAP set-up been prepared for the patient's arrival.

System Learning:

- Implement policies that clearly identify the requirements for safe patient transport and include the identification of personnel and the mandatory competencies with respect to both patient assessment and equipment management.
- Define role expectations for health care aides who participate in patient transfers and require oxygen therapy.
- Include policy and guidelines related to administration of oxygen therapy to patients in the clinical orientation for new staff.
- Utilize quick reference laminated cards with the START mnemonic that outlines safety checks for delivering oxygen therapy prior to transporting a patient. The reverse of the card contains an accurate estimate table of the time remaining in oxygen tank based on oxygen flow rates.
- Post information cards at oxygen storage tank locations.
- Develop a standardized method for information transfer between Emergency Department and unit staff to ensure the necessary communication occurs for safe patient transfer.
- Review and revise clinical transfer sheets to include documentation of the client's oxygen requirements and notification of the Respiratory Department regarding client transfer.

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