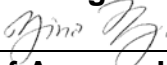
 Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg Caring for Health À l'écoute de notre santé	Personal Care Home/Long Term Care Facility Infection Prevention and Control Program	
	Oxygen Equipment, Cleaning of	
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	Approval Signature: 	Supercedes: Oxygen Equipment, Cleaning of (June 2004)
Date of Approval: June 24, 2010		
Review Date: June 2013		

1.0 **PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 To help prevent nosocomial respiratory infections while receiving oxygen therapy.

2.0 **PROCEDURE:**

2.1 Oxygen Concentrator

- 2.1.1 External Foam Filter (found on all machines)
- 2.1.1.1 Remove the dirty filter and replace it with a clean, dry filter once a week and/or between residents.
 - 2.1.1.2 Wash the dirty filter in warm soapy water, rinse well and let dry.
 - 2.1.1.3 Do not run the machine without a filter. Keep an extra foam filter for exchange.
- 2.1.2 Bacterial filter (found on some concentrators such as Healthdyne, Respironics Millennium, Puritan Bennett 590).
- 2.1.2.1 Change the bacterial filter every 6 months.
 - 2.1.2.2 Discard the dirty bacterial filter.
- 2.1.3 Concentrator Exterior (cabinet and cord)
- 2.1.3.1 Turn the concentrator off and unplug the cord. Wipe down the cabinet and cord with a facility approved disinfectant once a month or more frequently if necessary.
 - 2.1.3.2 Do not put stickers or tape on the concentrator. When the resident no longer needs the concentrator, clean the concentrator prior to putting it back in the pool, or before giving it to another resident.

- 2.2 Oxygen cannula, mask and tubing
 - 2.2.1 Change oxygen cannula and mask once a week. Discard the dirty cannula and mask into the garbage.
 - 2.2.2 Change the oxygen tubing that does not come in contact with the resident (i.e.: 25 foot extension tubing) once a month. Discard the dirty oxygen tubing into the garbage.
 - 2.2.3 If a humidifier bottle is used, change the oxygen tubing once a week. Discard the dirty oxygen tubing into the garbage.
- 2.3 Humidifier Bottle
 - 2.3.1 The use of humidifier bottles with oxygen is not recommended as they significantly increase the risk of bacterial contamination of the oxygen equipment. However, if humidifier bottles are used i.e. for the treatment of nasal dryness:
 - 2.3.1.1 Use only sterile distilled water to fill the humidifier bottle.
 - 2.3.1.2 Completely empty the sterile distilled water out of the humidifier bottle once a day, clean with soap and water, rinse well, allow to air dry and then refill the bottle.
 - 2.3.1.3 If the humidifier bottle is disposable, change the bottle once a week. Discard the dirty humidifier bottle.
 - 2.3.1.4 If the humidifier bottle is reusable, clean and sterilize the bottle once a week before reusing.

3.0 **REFERENCES:**

- 3.1 WRHA Policy. PCH Oxygen Therapy, Short Term (May 2006)
- 3.2 WRHA Policy. PCH Oxygen Therapy, Long Term (May 2006)
- 3.3 Regional Health Authorities of Manitoba. The Facts About Home Oxygen.

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