



Oxygen Tubing In Nursing Homes and FDDs

Wisconsin Healthcare –Associated Infections in LTC Coalition

Purpose:

The purpose of the position paper is to:

- Provide guidance regarding the frequency of changing oxygen tubing in Nursing Homes and Facilities Serving People with Developmental Disabilities.
- Request Nursing Homes and Facilities Serving People with Developmental Disabilities to join with the Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) and the WI Healthcare-Associated Infections in Long-Term Care Coalition (WI HAI in LTC Coalition) to support the practice of oxygen tubing replacement that reflects current evidenced-based practice.

Background:

Governor Scott Walker signed 2015 Wisconsin Act 107 into law modifying administrative rules related to maintenance and use of oxygen equipment in Nursing Homes and Facilities Serving People with Developmental Disabilities. Under the previous rules, cannulas, hoses, humidifier bottles and disposable inhalation equipment used at a resident's bedside were to be changed at least every five days; and other inhalation equipment such as intermittent positive pressure breathing equipment changed daily. 2015 Wisconsin Act 107 amends these rules and provides that the equipment instead shall be maintained and used in accordance with current standards of practice and manufacturers' recommendations. This law took effect November 13, 2015.

Guidance specific to the use of cannulas, hoses (oxygen tubing):

Current evidence and standards of practice support oxygen tubing replacement to be event related instead of time related. Event related examples requiring oxygen tubing replacement include when visibly soiled, when known contamination occurs and/or between residents. Current evidence and standards of practice do not recommend changing oxygen tubing at regular intervals such as weekly or every five days. When available, manufacturer recommendations should be incorporated into the facility's policies and procedures.

Nursing homes should review this information with their infection preventionist and medical director and update their policies and procedures accordingly. Nursing staff in Facilities Serving People with Developmental Disabilities should review this information with their medical staff and update their policies and procedures accordingly.



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Resources:

For more information about the WI HAI in LTC Coalition visit their website at:

(<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/regulations/nh/hai-introduction.htm>)

Respiratory Care, August 2007, Volume 52. No1 American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC) Clinical Practice Guidelines - Oxygen Therapy in the Home or Alternate Site Health Care Facility —2007 Revision & Update at <http://www.rcjournal.com/cpgs/pdf/08.07.1063.pdf>

CDC [Guideline for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Pneumonia, 2003](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5303a1.htm) located at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5303a1.htm>

The complete text of 2015 Wisconsin Act 107 can be found at:

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/acts/107.pdf>
