PURPOSE:
To prevent and minimize bacterial growth in respiratory therapy equipment.

CONSIDERATIONS:
1. If not cleaned properly, respiratory therapy equipment provides an excellent reservoir for growth of pathogenic organisms that can be introduced to the patient via the airway.
2. If the patient experiences an upper respiratory infection, nasal prongs and face masks should be changed once symptoms are controlled.
3. Scrupulous attention should be given to all parts of the equipment (i.e., exterior, tubing, reservoirs, etc.).
4. Equipment should be rinsed in warm running water after each treatment and disinfected daily.
5. Two complete sets of washable equipment should be on hand so that a clean, dry set is available if needed.
6. DO NOT use hair dryers and blowers to dry equipment, let equipment air-dry.
7. All equipment should be kept in a clean, dry, dust-free area.
8. Humidification bottles should be washed with soap and warm water, rinsed thoroughly between refills.

EQUIPMENT:
- Liquid dish detergent
- Nylon brush
- Clean, dry towel or paper towels
- Disinfecting agent
- Basin
- Plastic bag, if equipment is to be stored
- Gloves
- Personal protective equipment, as needed

PROCEDURE:
1. Adhere to Standard Precautions.
2. Remove all washable parts of equipment and disassemble.
3. Wash equipment in liquid dish detergent and hot water, scrubbing gently with a nylon brush. Scrub thoroughly to remove mucus, secretions, medications and foreign material.
4. Rinse equipment thoroughly, making sure all detergent is removed.
5. Soak equipment in disinfecting agent or other disinfecting agent recommended by equipment manufacturer.
6. Rinse equipment parts, using sterile or filtered water for the final rinse.
7. Air dry equipment by:
   a. Shaking or swinging excess water out of tubing and hard to dry areas.
   b. Hanging tubing to drip-dry completely.
   c. Placing remaining equipment on clean paper towels and covering with paper towels.
8. Discard solution according to manufacturer’s instructions.
9. Wipe down all surfaces of machines with a clean cloth daily.
10. Store unused equipment in plastic bag.

AFTER CARE:
1. Document in patient’s record:
   a. Instructions given to patient/caregiver.
   b. Patient/caregiver understanding and return demonstration.
   c. Condition of equipment after cleaning.

REFERENCES: