

**P014**

## **VENTILATORS**

### **VENTILATOR**

A **Ventilator** or Respirator (as it is also called) is a non-invasive or invasive method of supporting breathing, it functions by delivering oxygen into the lungs and removing carbon dioxide from the body. A ventilator is frequently used in conjunction with a tracheostomy.

### **Health Care Plan**

A health care plan is developed regarding all aspects of the Customer/Client care with the input from the Customer/Client, the plan is overseen by a health practitioner and is to be reviewed regularly. The plan is to include actions on any incident that is outside the scope of practice or any situation and or emergency. A Doctor or Clinical Nurse is to be contacted immediately for guidance and assistance. All incidents are to be documented.

### **Training and Assessment**

All staff involved with caring for a Customer/Client with a Ventilator must have completed theoretical training in basic respiratory system, anatomy and musculoskeletal problems associated with respiration. followed by practical assessment and endorsement as being skilled in this procedure by the Clinical Nurse Consultant/Registered Nurse. This competency is assessed on an annual basis. All staff are to be trained and assessed on the type of ventilator used by their Customer/Client owing to the variety of equipment available.

### **Customer/Client Care**

Personal hygiene and Oral Hygiene as well as infection control measures are vital in Ventilator care. Pain, discomfort and pressure areas are all complications of people using a ventilator. Use of PPE at all times is a requirement of Enhanced Lifestyles and Lifestyles Assistance and Accommodation Services.

### **Using a Ventilator**

All Ventilators operate in a similar manner, however there are many differences between equipment, you are always required to follow the manufacturer's instructions provided. You will be instructed and assessed for the ventilator you are using,

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### **Basic Steps;**

- Identify and assemble equipment according to instructions
- Follow instructions to prepare and operate ventilator
- Start ventilation and ensure is working effectively
- Respond to all alarms and troubleshoot immediately
- Maintain and clean equipment daily
- Look for signs of respiratory distress

**This Procedure is to be used in Conjunction with P005 Tracheostomy Suctioning Procedure for Care Workers**

**Call 000 if breathing is not normal and Start CPR if needed**