



Effective Health Care

Simple Mask with Bubble Humidifier vs. Aerosol Mask Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- The population, interventions, and clinical context for simple mask with bubble humidifier vs. aerosol mask could not be defined and no published research on the topic could be identified. Therefore, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator indicates that he does not believe that hooking up a simple mask to a bubble humidifier is humidifying oxygen. He questions the effectiveness of the bubble humidifier with simple mask oxygen delivery system compared to an aerosol setup for easing patient breathing.

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. How effective is a simple mask attached to a bubble humidifier?
2. How can a hospital allow such a device?

Considerations

- The clinical context of this nomination is not clear. According to the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), simple oxygen masks are a low flow oxygen delivery device (delivers 100% oxygen at flows less than the patient's inspiratory flow rate) while aerosol masks are a high flow oxygen delivery device (provides a prescribed gas mixture that exceeds patient demand). Because of the different natures of these two devices, they do not appear to be comparable. A search for articles comparing simple masks with bubble humidifiers and aerosol masks yielded no results.