

VENTILATOR ASSOCIATED PNEUMONIA (PREVENTION)

HAND HYGIENE

- Meticulous hand hygiene before and after patient contact and handling respiratory equipment or condensate
- wear gloves and apron when handling ventilator condensate and other respiratory/oral secretions

INTUBATION

- Use a new, sterile ETT for each intubation attempt
- use sedation +/- video laryngoscopy for planned procedure to reduce need for multiple attempts
- Ensure ETT does not contact environmental surfaces before insertion
- Use a sterilised or clean single use laryngoscope
- Have ≥2 NICU staff members present for ETT retaping/repositioning

SUCTIONING PRACTICES

- Clear secretions from the oropharynx before:
 - ETT manipulation
 - patient repositioning
 - extubation
 - re-intubation

ETT SUCTION

- Only when indicated
- Do not use sodium chloride instillation routinely
- For open suction, use 'suction function' on ventilator (if available) to prevent spray of condensate

FEEDING

- Adjust enteral feeding (See **Nutrition and enteral feeding** guideline). Abdominal distension and vomiting increase risk of reflux and aspiration

POSITIONING

- Keep head of bed elevated 15–30°
- Ensure no condensate in ventilator tubing before turning

ORAL CARE

- Use colostrum/breast milk, or sterile water if no breast milk available (See **Nutrition and enteral feeding** guideline)
- Carry out oral care:
 - ≤24 hr after intubation
 - every 3–4 hr
 - before re-intubation as time allows
 - before orogastric tube insertion

RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT

- Use a separate suction catheter for oral and tracheal suction
- Drain ventilator condensate away from baby every 2–4 hr and before repositioning
- Avoid disconnection of ventilator circuit – only disconnect if:
 - emergency use of Neopuff™ or ETT re-intubation
 - change of circuit
 - unable to remove condensate by manipulation of tubing
- Do not routinely disconnect ventilator circuit when turning baby
- Change ventilator circuit when visibly soiled or mechanically malfunctioning in addition to manufacturer's instructions

Ventilator associated pneumonia 2025–28

- Clean Neopuff™ connector with alcohol wipe after each manual contact with the ETT adapter
- Use heated ventilator circuits