

What is the 12-hour Block of Care in the Pediatric Ventilator Unit?

The purpose of the 12-hour block of care is to have the two primary caregivers practice the education and care that they have learned. This is one more step to help prepare for a safe discharge home. The 12-hour block of care is done at the bedside. Nursing and Respiratory Therapy are available to assist, educate, and answer questions the caregivers may have.

What are caregivers expected to do?

1. The block of care must be completed by both caregivers from 9am-9pm.
2. The block of care begins with AM cares at 9am and finishes with PM cares at 9pm.
3. Caregivers will be provided with a 24-hour care plan they will follow. The care plan has the times for medications, respiratory treatments, therapies and daily cares.
4. Caregivers will:
 - a. Follow the care plan and do all daily cares
 - b. Ask for and give medications when due
 - c. Ask for and administer all respiratory treatments when scheduled
 - d. Transport patient to any therapies
 - e. Respond to all alarms
5. Caregivers will take the patient for a walk independently at some time during the 12 hours.
6. One caregiver must be awake, alert, and attentive the full 12 hours.
7. Caregivers are encouraged to ask questions at any time during the 12 hours.
8. Review with your nurse how you feel the 12-hour block of care went. What went well? What do you need more practice with?

What are staff expected to do?

1. Your child's nurse practitioner will create the care plan and provide family and nursing with a copy.
2. Your child's nurse will review the care plan with you before the 12-hour block of care begins. During the block of care they will:
 - a. Bring medications when you ask for them
 - b. Obtain vital signs and a physical assessment
 - c. Do usual emergency checks
 - d. Document intake and output
 - e. Review how you felt the 12-hour block of care went and write a note
3. Your child's respiratory therapist will provide the respiratory meds when you ask for them, observe all respiratory therapy being done and chart accordingly, and will do emergency checks.

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