

*Blue Ridge HealthCare System
Interdisciplinary
Patient Care*

Low Air-Loss Mattress / Bed

Origination Date: 05/1994

Review/Revised Date: 10/28/2015

APPLICABILITY:

Carolinas HealthCare System Blue Ridge

POLICY:

A specialty bed will be obtained upon provider order. The low air-loss mattress / bed will be utilized according to manufacturer's recommendations.

PURPOSE:

To maintain skin integrity and to promote healing of existing pressure ulcers and flaps and grafts.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- A. Unstable spine fracture
- B. Cervical traction

EQUIPMENT:

- A. Low Air-Loss Mattress / Bed
- B. Fitted sheet and top sheet
- C. Pillows
- D. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as indicated
- E. Under-Pad if indicated

PROCESS:

- A. Review provider order.
 - a. Order mattress / bed as authorized per facility administration (process may vary by facility).
- B. Explain procedure to patient.
- C. Hand Hygiene before and after patient contact.

- a. Utilize PPE as indicated.
- D. If necessary, use appropriate equipment to assist with patient turning or transfer.
- E. Assist with the transfer of patients on and off the bed.
- F. Assemble sufficient number of personnel in order to transfer patient.
- G. Position the patient for comfort or as specified by the provider.
 - a. Pillows may be utilized.
- H. Place patient on q2h turning schedule to provide for repositioning and pulmonary drainage unless contraindicated to the patient's care.
- I. Provide skin care to meet the patient's individualized needs.
- J. Do not impede airflow with restrictive material.
 - a. Use disposable incontinence pads if needed.
- K. Remind patient of No Smoking policy.
 - a. Smoking is prohibited.
- L. In the event of Code Blue, follow CPR manufacturer's instructions with the bed. Initiate emergency measures.
 - a. Cardiac board can be utilized.
- M. If weights are ordered, request scales at the time of placing order.

NOTE:

- A. For more details regarding the equipment, refer to Sizewise.net. or contact Sizewise at: 1-800-814-9389.

DOCUMENTATION:

- A. Use of bed
- B. Condition of skin every shift
- C. Patient education and response on ETR