



Clinical practice guidelines

"This clinical practice guideline synthesizes current best-evidence into four recommendations for [NHF] use..."
- Rochwerg et al. Intensive Care Med. 2020.¹

Nasal High Flow (NHF) therapy is recommended for use in several applications by published guidelines. A clinical practice guideline for NHF use as a respiratory strategy in adult patients requiring respiratory support was recently published in Intensive Care Medicine,¹ the official journal of The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM).

Summary

A multinational panel of experts examined the body of NHF evidence and made these recommendations for its use compared to conventional oxygen therapy (COT):¹

Strong recommendation
for primary respiratory support in acute hypoxic respiratory failure.

Conditional recommendation
for primary respiratory support in post-cardiothoracic surgery patients with obesity and/or high risk of postoperative respiratory complication.

No recommendation
for pre-oxygenation of patients being intubated in the ICU (with a suggestion to continue NHF to pre-oxygenate those already receiving it).

Conditional recommendation
for post-extubation respiratory support following extubation in those intubated for more than 24 hours and with any one or more feature of high risk of post-extubation failure.

Recommendations

Figure 1. These recommendations were made for NHF therapy as a strategy for adult patients requiring respiratory support:



Acute hypoxic respiratory failure

For primary respiratory support compared to COT. Recommendation made with moderate certainty.



Post-operative

For primary respiratory support compared to COT in high risk and/or obese patients following cardiac or thoracic surgery. Recommendation made with moderate certainty.



Peri-intubation

For pre-oxygenation prior to in-ICU intubation no recommendation is made compared to COT. NHF during intubation should be continued for patients who are already receiving NHF.*



Post-extubation respiratory failure

For post-extubation respiratory support compared to COT following extubation. Recommendation made with moderate certainty.

Strong Recommendation

Conditional Recommendation

Continue NHF*

Conditional Recommendation

* For patients who are already receiving NHF, guideline authors suggest continuing NHF during intubation (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty).

Interpreting the strength of recommendations

Interpretation of the strength of the recommendations was provided for clinicians:

Strong recommendation

Most individuals should receive the recommended course of action. Adherence to this recommendation according to the guideline could be used as a quality criterion or performance indicator.

Formal decision aids are not likely to be needed to help individuals make decisions consistent with their values and preferences.

Conditional recommendation

Different choices are likely to be appropriate for different patients and therapy should be tailored to the individual patient's circumstances. Those circumstances may include the patient or family's values and preferences.

Implementation

"There is broad evidence that there is a substantial gap between the healthcare that patients receive and the practice that is recommended - also known as the research-practice gap, evidence-practice gap or knowing-doing gap. Evidence suggests that it sometimes takes more than a decade to implement research results in clinical practice..."

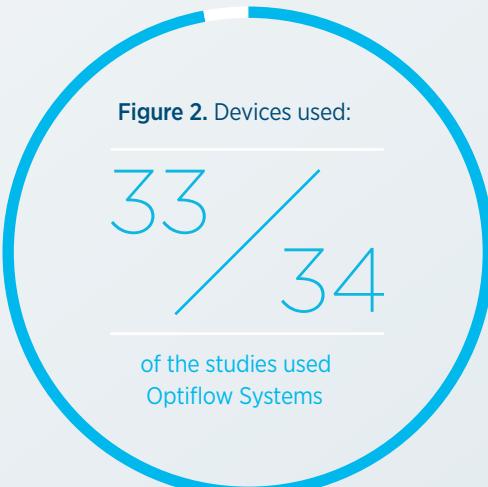
Kristensen et al. BMC Health Services Research. 2016.²

It is important that awareness of the guidelines and adoption of the recommendations are advocated amongst the clinical community so that clinical practice continues improving and patients receive recommended care.

The clinical practice guideline highlights the cost effectiveness of NHF compared to COT for acute hypoxic respiratory failure:

"Cost-effectiveness data suggests a net cost savings with [NHF] compared to COT in the range of 500–1000 British Pounds per patient (600–1200 US Dollars or Euros [equivalent currency]). This cost-effectiveness considers both the cost of the equipment but also the cost savings in intubations avoided. Consequently, [NHF] was judged by the panel to be associated with at least moderate cost savings."

Figure 2. Devices used:



33 / 34
of the studies used
Optiflow Systems

The systematic reviews with meta analyses supporting the clinical practice guidelines^{3–6} analyzed data from 34 published studies (mostly RCTs)^{7–40} and one study abstract.⁴¹ A review by Fisher & Paykel Healthcare showed that of the 34 published and analyzed studies, 33 used F&P Optiflow Systems, including a F&P Optiflow patient interface and a F&P humidity delivery system with humidity setting of 37 °C. See Figure 2.

When selecting a NHF system, it is important to ensure the entire system, including device capabilities such as flow rate and humidity delivery, can provide the therapy to deliver the expected outcomes proven in the clinical body of evidence.

Definitions

F&P Optiflow System: A F&P purpose-built system for NHF – either an Airvo™ Optiflow System or a non-Airvo Optiflow System.

Airvo Optiflow System: A F&P Airvo with integrated flow source, humidifier and humidity delivery kit (F&P heated breathing tube and F&P auto-fill chamber). Used with a F&P Optiflow patient interface and able to accompany the patient throughout the hospital independent of medical air supply. Note that Airvo 2's intended use is for spontaneously breathing patients only.

Non-Airvo Optiflow System: A F&P humidifier (e.g. MR850 system) and humidity delivery system (F&P heated breathing tube and F&P auto-fill chamber). Used with a F&P Optiflow patient interface and an independent flow generator such as a HFNC-capable ventilator.

For further information, please visit www.fphcare.com/optiflow or click on the hyperlinked reference below.

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