

Nasal High Flow for Infants and Children

A global overview of current literature and practice.



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Mechanisms of action

Respiratory support

Airway hydration Washout of anatomical dead space⁴ Dynamic positive airway pressure^{5,6} Patient comfort^{9,10}

NHF definition:1-3

Nasal high flow (NHF) is a mode of noninvasive respiratory support that delivers high flows of heated and humidified blended air and oxygen through an unsealed nasal interface. Accurate oxygen delivery^{7,8}

Wilkinson et al. Cochrane Database Sys Rev (2016).
Collins et al. J Pediatr (2013).
Franklin et al. N Engl J Med (2018).
d. de Klerk A. Adv Neonatal Care 8, 98-106 (2008).

Saslow J et al. J Perinatol 26, 476-480 (2006). Milési C et al. Intensive Care Med 39, 1088-1094 (2013). Hough J et al. Pediatr Crit Care Med 15, e214-9 (2014). Sinha I et al. Chest 148, 810-823 (2015). 9. Collins CL et al. Eur J Pediatr 173, 181-186 (2014). 10. Roberts C et al. N Engl J Med 375, 1142-1151 (2016).

NHF benefits:

NHF offers a range of benefits compared with standard oxygen therapy, and there are several mechanisms of action associated with this therapy, including airway hydration and washout of anatomical dead space.

Increasing evidence in the use of NHF for infants and children

	2011 Schibler et al. ² Australia		2013 Milési et al.⁴ France		2014 Testa et al. ⁶ Italy		2014 Pham et al. [®] Australia		2017 Kepreotes et al. ¹⁰ Australia		2022 Ramnarayan et al. ¹² UK		
an increase associated	d use with a on in c	riew showing of NHF was reduced need children with	Physiological stur that a flow of app 2 L/kg/min is req improve work of bronchiolitis patie	proximately uired to breathing in	RCT showing N PaO, but had n PaCO ₂ in pedia patients.		npact on	Physiological st the use of 2 L/k bronchiolitic an infants reduced of breathing.	g/min in d cardiac	RCT showing N did not significa time on oxygen bronchiolitis col standard oxyge	in infants with mpared with		espiratory
2010 McKiernan et al. ¹ Australia		2012 Wing et al. ³ USA		2014 Rubin et al.⁵ USA			2014 Mayfield et a Australia	l. ⁷	2017 Milési et al.º France		2018 Franklin et a Australia, Ne		2022 Ramnarayan et al. ¹³ UK
The use of NHF in the PICU for infants with bronchiolitis was associated with a decreased need for intubation.		Retrospective re the early use of 1 reduced the need in the PICU.	NHF in the ED	Physiological study confirming that increasing flow rate was associated with decreased effort of breathing in children post extubation.			Pilot RCT showing that improvements to heart rate and respiratory rate within one hour are predictors of NHF therapy success outside the PICU.		RCT showing NHF did not have a failure rate similar to that of nCPAP in the PICU.		Largest RCT including > 1400 infants with bronchiolitis in non-ICU settings, showing therapy failure rate was lower in NHF compared with standard oxygen therapy.		RCT showing NHF met th noninferiority criteria whe compared with CPAP for liberation of respiratory as first-line support.

A systematic search of available literature shows there are more than 220 peer-reviewed papers investigating the use of NHF therapy in infants and children.

Of these, 23 are randomized controlled trials (RCTs) - 10 of which compared NHF with standard oxygen therapy, nine with continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) and four with alternative treatments. A further 10 are in the form of systematic reviews.



NHF papers on infants and children 23 RCTs

10 compare NHF vs. standard oxygen therapy

9 compare NHF vs. CPAP*

4 compare NHF vs. alternative therapies

Plus a further 10 systematic reviews

1. McKiernan et al. J Pediatr (2010). 2. Schibler et al. Intensive Care Med (2011). 3. Wing et al. Pediatr Emerg Care (2012). 4. Milési et al. Intensive Care Med (2013). 5. Rubin et al. Pediatr Crit Care Med (2014).

6. Testa et al. Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg (2014). 7. Mayfield et al. J Paediatr Child Health (2014). 8. Pham et al. Pediatr Pulmon 9. Milési et al. Intensive Care Med 10. Kepreotes et al. Lancet (2017).

11. Franklin et al. N Engl J Med (2018). 12. Ramnarayan et al. JAMA (2022). 13. Ramnarayan et al. JAMA (2022).

Franklin et al. 2018.¹

New England Journal of Medicine. 378(12), 1121-1131 (2018).

An RCT of high-flow oxygen therapy in infants with bronchiolitis.

This large multi-center RCT supports the early use of NHF in the ED and general care areas in young infants with bronchiolitis and may help reduce the escalation of therapy. This RCT used the F&P Airvo[™] with an F&P Optiflow[™] Junior interface.



Primary Outcome

 The early use of NHF in the ED and ward resulted in a significantly lower rate of therapy failure compared with standard oxygen therapy (12% vs. 23%, p < 0.001).

	Standard O ₂ therapy	Optiflow Junior NHF	
Therapy failure	167/733 (23%)	87/739 (12%)	p
	\checkmark		
Rescue NHF therapy failure	65/167 (39%)	\checkmark	
	\checkmark		
PICU admission	65/733 (9%)	87/739 (12%)	р
	\checkmark	\checkmark	
Intubation	4/733 (0.5%)	8/739 (1%)	р

Secondary Outcomes

- There were no significant differences between the secondary outcomes (PICU admissions, intubation rates and adverse events).
- 61% of patients who failed standard oxygen therapy were rescued by NHF and avoided PICU admission.

0.001 > 0

o = 0.08

o = 0.39

Current position of NHF in clinical practice

There are a number of possible pathways for the use of NHF for infants outside of the PICU.

Integration of NHF across the hospital environment may support standardization of care.

Humidified oxygen therapy Early escalation to NHF

> **Primary NHF** support

Heating and humidification of blended air and oxygen may avoid complications associated with cold and dry gas. It may also help assess severity of hypoxia and may help improve the standardization of equipment.

NHF has been shown to be an effective early escalation step following the use of standard oxygen therapy.

NHF (approx. 2 L/kg/min) can be used broadly as primary respiratory support to reduce therapy escalation compared with standard oxygen therapy.



Integrating the use of NHF across the PICU, ED and ward may be associated with improved standardization of care. When used cohesively across the hospital, NHF may also contribute to a change in respiratory support practice, moving towards less invasive strategies. This leads to the potential for more patients to be managed in local hospitals and lower-acuity settings.¹⁻⁴

The current trends in literature suggest that NHF may have an increasing role across the hospital and a broad range of patient physiologies.

Range of patient phys



1. Milési et al. Intensive Care Med (2013). 2. Rubin et al. Pediatr Crit Care Med (2014).

Putting NHF into practice

siologies:	Other ED/general care PICU

Flow rates

Flows

Literature suggests therapy outcome may be predicted within 60 minutes using clinical indicators.

• 2 L/kg/min for infants up to 12 kg in weight has been shown to produce rapid improvement in reducing respiratory distress, and a reduced need for the escalation of therapy.

• Flow rates for those over 12 kg have been protocolized by the PARIS research group.¹

Weight	Flow rate
Up to 12 kg	2 L/kg/min
13-15 kg	30 L/min
16-30 kg	35 L/min
31-50 kg	40 L/min
> 50 kg	50 L/min



Within 60 minutes



The predictive quality of clinical indicators has not been assessed in definitive trials. The above information collates observational literature but does not overrule expert clinical judgement in patient management.

	Likely indicators for:			
	Success	Caution		
rate	Improvement ¹⁻⁴	No improvement ^{1,3,4}		
	Improvement ^{1,3,4}	No improvement ^{3,4}		
athing	Improvement ¹	Currently no data		
aturation	Currently no data	No improvement ¹		

1. Abboud et al. Ped Crit Care Med (2012). 2. Bressan et al. Eur J Pediatr (2013).

3. Canares et al. RI Med Jour (2014). 4. Mayfield et al. J Ped & Child Health (2014).

Optiflow Junior 2 interface product features





F&P WigglewiNG

The F&P WigglewiNG[™] can be used in conjunction with the Optiflow Junior 2/2+ to stabilize a nasogastric (NG) tube to the patient while maintaining the ability to remove or reposition the interface if necessary.



F&P Airvo 2

- Integrated flow generator delivers a wide flow range (2 to 60 L/min) - no wall air supply required.
- No separate temperature probes or heater-wire adapters required means that temperature can be accurately controlled to minimize condensation.
- Integrated O₂ mixing with an in-built O₂ sensor.
- Provides versatility, mobility and convenience.





Weight (kg)* Correlated age**

XL

Weight (kg)* Correlated age**

Maximum flow rate



Weight (kg)* Correlated age**

Maximum flow rate

XXL

wkGA = weeks of gestation; mo = months; yr = years * Weight data is based on F&P product validation studies. ** Age data is a correlation to weight data based on a combination of Fenton, WHO and CDC growth charts.

The above flow rates can be achieved on the F&P Airvo 2 platform. Flow rates achieved on other platforms may differ.



Size and flow rates





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Sinha I, McBride A, Smith R, Fernandes R. CPAP and High-Flow Nasal Cannula Oxygen in Bronchiolitis. Chest 148, 810-823 (2015).

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