EQUIPMENT FOR HOME

Oximeter: Masimo Radical 8 for home use
- CCT RRT or NICU Core RRT will:
  - Teach family about the oximeter, probes and cleaning
  - Program the alarm limits for home as determined by the team and parents. The alarm limit parameters are written in the Physician’s Orders.
- Alarm parameter may be set further apart than bedside central monitor. This is required for home use.
- The bedside RN reinforces teaching and safety, ensures monitor is being used for parents to gain comfort.

Suction Units
- Families require two at home (one as back-up)
- CCT RT or NICU Core RRT will take suction machines out of boxes and set up with families for use in the NICU.
- Home Tracheostomy Family Educator reviews use of the suction machine, cleaning process and how to organize supplies.
- CCT RTs, NICU Core RRTs and bedside RNs reinforce family learning.

Humidity System
- The home humidification system may require modification to accommodate the corrugated tubing. The CCT RT or NICU Discharge Planning RN organizes with Biomedical Engineering to customize the outflow of the humidifier.
- Once the home humidity system is modified, it is set up and assessed for adequate humidity by the CCT RT or NICU Core RRT (usually 5 to 7 days before discharge).
- The Home Tracheostomy Family Educator reviews the use and care of the humidifier with the family.
- The family is responsible for the daily cleaning/water replacement of the home humidity system. If the family is not present the NICU Core RRT or bedside RN cleans the unit and exchanges the water in the reservoir.
- All team members ensure the humidity system does not run dry.

General
- Equipment for home is the property of the parents. The NICU has a responsibility to ensure safe keeping of the equipment.
- Ensure equipment is labelled with the infant’s name and home phone number.
- Quota for home supplies is determined by the At Home Program (AHP); therefore do not use the family’s supplies.

Ordering supplies
- The NICU Discharge Planning RN and CCT RT orders the first set of supplies for home.
- In addition to family input, the primary or bedside RN, and NICU Core RRT review the supply list and provide feedback.
FAMILY EDUCATION

- The NICU will provide education sessions for families of infants with tracheostomies and home ventilation.
- The NICU CCT RT and NICU Core RRTs will work closely with families to train them to care for their infants.
- NICU nurses and RRTs help families consolidate learning and document topics reviewed.
- Families must have completed all training prior to taking infant out of the unit without medical staff.

Care by parent weekend

- The NICU Discharge Planning RN organizes a bed. Takes place Friday noon until Sunday noon.
- The RN ensures there is a physician order.
- Parents sign 72 hour pass.
- The family sets up their own respiratory equipment. They can access the RRT for assistance if required.
- The family packs their belongings and supplies for the weekend.
- The bedside RN helps the family move to the room.

Care plan/nursing summary accompanies the family.

Community Resources:

Bayshore Peds Home Healthcare RNs have observation days in the NICU to get to know the infant and family.

DOCUMENTATION

Care Plan

- The NICU Discharge Planning RN and CCT RT develop the initial care plan.
- The parents, as experts on their infant, will provide input.
- The RN and RT ensure the care plan is complete and up to date, i.e. individualize and add infant-specific information.
- The Discharge Planning RN and CCT RT ensure the final copy is distributed to community resources.

Family teaching flow sheet

- Provided by Home Tracheostomy Family Educator