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# Elastomeric Half Facepiece Respirator (EHFR)

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## Purpose:

To understand use within PPE Use & Application of Prioritization Framework policy

To understand & practice specific procedures for assembly, donning, doffing and disinfection between uses and end of shift

## Resources:

Elastomeric half face respirator use procedure document

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## Equipment & Materials:

Elastomeric half face respirator use procedure  
[PPE Use Application of PPE Prioritization Framework Policy](#)  
EHFR for demonstration  
Pair of Particulate filters (3M 7093)  
Surgical Mask  
Plastic Storage Bag  
Hospital Grade Disinfectant Wipes  
Video links for donning & doffing

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## Directions for In-service:

Learners: for staff on units designated for EHFR use

Learning outcomes:

- Identify the standards for EHFR use (not for procedures requiring a mask to protect patient (for example, sterile procedures), dedicated EHFR, not to be shared during a shift, how to identify and store)
  - Demonstrate how to assemble of EHFR, donning/doffing of EHFR, disinfection between use/task, and end of shift disinfection
  - Identify decision points re: returning EHFR or component parts due to damage; discarding filters
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### **Key Policy Statements:**

- EHFR is an N-95 alternative used as part of PPE preservation strategy in designated units
- Why use this specific device?
  - This device is worn for airborne precautions by staff who are not able to fit a N95 mask, staff who wear a N95 mask that is not in stock, or in designated areas to preserve N95 supplies for areas that require an N95 mask for a sterile environment
- How does this mask work to filter air?
  - Filtration of air only occurs with inflow of air through filters
  - Do not use EHFR for any sterile procedure requiring a mask to protect the patient. The outflow valve does not prevent providers' germs from flowing out of the mask. EHFR provides protection for staff person wearing it. It does not protect the patient. This further highlights the importance of not coming to work if you are symptomatic.
- Must be fit tested so that you know your size (prior to use and annually thereafter)
- Use only workplace provided EHFR. Use of personally purchased PPE, including EHFR, is not supported while there is Health Authority provided PPE for use
- Requires an effective seal with the face for proper functioning. Must be clean shaven at points where EHFR seals with the face
- EHFR assigned to staff member for duration of shift (NOT SHARED)
- Must be disinfected between tasks and at end of shift
- Filters must not be used if wet/submersed or soiled. Unusable filters should be returned and marked as defective so they can be replaced. These filters must be logged on unit specific discard tracking form.
- Reprocessed only at end of shift or if it is soiled with blood or other body fluids.

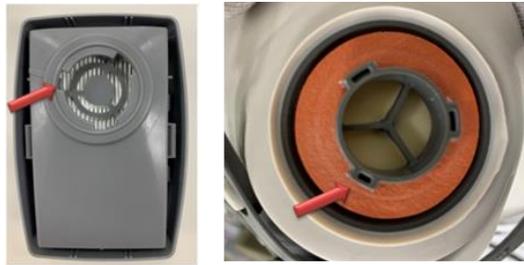
### **Key Procedure Steps:**

#### **Where to obtain & How to sign out:**

- Medical Equipment Depot (MED) Porter delivers EHFRs to a central location on designated units
  - Each individual unit has a unique distribution protocol.
  - Health care provider is provided one EHFR for the shift and signs a receipt of EHFR (with unique tracking number) and filters (with unique tracking numbers) at beginning of shift
  - At the end of each shift, healthcare provider will return EFHR and filters and sign both in.
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### Assembling EHFR:

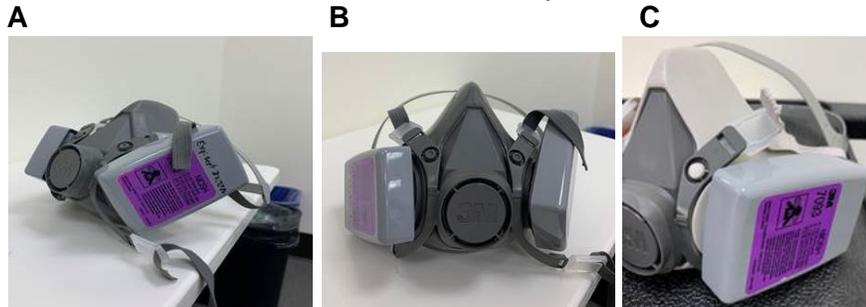
- [Watch video]: [Inspection of the mask](#) (0:47)
- Visually inspect each part of the EHFR to identify potential defects: facepiece, straps, inhalation and exhalation valves, filters
- [Watch video]: [Attachment of filters](#) (0:13)
- Check filters' expiry date. If faded or expired, return to MED for replacement.
- **Gently TWIST** the filter to lock in place. Both cartridges must “look” the same direction on each side. The cartridge will be level with bottom of mask in final position.
- The notches must be lined up. If the notches are not properly lined up and force is used, the plastic could be damaged on the filters and the mask.



Review key policy points from procedure

Demonstrate correct assembly of EHFR sample

Which of these filters is attached correctly?



Review Donning & Doffing Checklist

- Practice steps emphasizing hand hygiene, order for donning & doffing, importance of seal check
- [Watch video]: [Positive seal check \(front valve\)](#) (0:22)
- [Watch video]: [Negative seal check \(side cartridges\)](#) (0:47)

How/when to sanitize (clean) between tasks / patient care (what parts, with what solution)

How to disinfect & where to return for reprocessing