

Quick Look Procedure Resource for NON-CRITICAL CARE staff

What to do if the SpO₂ monitor alarms

WHEN TO PERFORM

1. On hearing the SpO₂ monitor alarm

HOW TO PERFORM

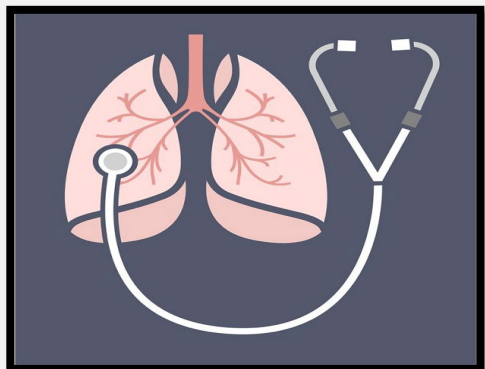
- a) check monitor to see why it is alarming
- b) check that the SpO₂ is attached to the patient
- c) check that the oxygen source is still attached
- d) is the patient still attached to the ventilator
- e) is the ventilator also alarming



- a) is the endotracheal tube in the correct position
- b) check the level of oxygen that the patient is receiving
- c) does the oxygen need to be increased
- d) check an arterial blood gas



- a) Does the patient need endotracheal suctioning
- b) are both sides of the patient's chest moving equally
- c) is the patient coughing



KEY SAFETY CONCERNS/WHEN TO CALL FOR HELP

1. If SpO₂ <88: call for help
2. If you cannot find a reason for the drop in SpO₂ : ↑Oxygen whilst waiting for help
3. Always ensure that you have another means of ventilating the patient