

Troubleshooting Guide

Heated High Flow Nasal Cannula Oxygen Therapy

1. ASSESS the patient:



- Are both nares clear and patent?
 - Check for nasal congestion, suction nares if indicated.
- Are the prongs patent?
- Are the prongs kinked/stretched/broken/torn or occluded?
 - Replace if broken or torn.
- Is the patient lying on the oxygen tubing?
- Are the prongs sitting correctly in the nares?
- Are the prongs the correct size (50% of the nares)?
- Are the prongs sitting away from the nasal septum?
- Replace prongs as required and as per manufacturer recommendations.

2. ASSESS the circuit and its connections:



- Are the prongs attached to the circuit correctly?
- Is the circuit tubing kinked/stretched/broken/torn or occluded?
 - Replace if broken or torn.
- Is the circuit tubing attached correctly to the device?
- Is the humidifier chamber attached correctly to the device?
- Is the device in the correct mode?

3. ASSESS oxygen delivery::



- Is it attached to an oxygen source (i.e. not medical air)?
- Is the oxygen source (flowmeter) connected correctly to the wall outlet?
- Is the oxygen flowmeter functioning correctly and has an adequate flow?
- Is the oxygen tubing kinked or obstructed?
- Is the oxygen tubing correctly attached to the inlet of the delivery unit?
- Is the oxygen inlet attached correctly to the deliver unit?
- Is the bacterial filter of the delivery unit clean and unobstructed?
- Is the oxygen analyzer reading correctly?

4. ASSESS humidification:



- Are the humidifier settings set to the appropriate temperature and is functioning correctly?
- Is there sufficient water in the humidification chamber?
- Is the water feed tubing kinked?
- Is the bag of sterile water for inhalation empty?

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5. CONSULT an expert



- If issues persist or if you are uncertain about troubleshooting steps, consult with a respiratory therapist.
- Concerns with your patient, contact the most responsible provider (MRP).

6. Documentation:



- Document as per your institution guidelines, include settings, patient response(s), troubleshooting interventions and any expert consultation.



Always follow your healthcare facility's protocols and guidelines when troubleshooting HHFNC-O2 therapy, and seek assistance from qualified healthcare professionals when needed.



No Respiratory Therapist?

Contact Children's Hospital (LHSC) @
519-685-8500 - Ask switchboard to speak
with an RRT about High Flow
Troubleshooting



Troubleshooting
Reference Cards
can be found
[HERE](#)

Critical

1-800-668-4357 (HELP)

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