

## JOINT TRAUMA SYSTEM CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE (JTS CPG)



### Mechanical Ventilation Basics

This CPG provides an overview of prehospital and interfacility mechanical ventilation of a patient for point of injury to en route care up to Role 2 levels of care in a standardized approach.

#### Contributors

CAPT Michael Tripp, MC, USN  
HMC Wayne Papalski, FP-C, USN  
MSG Michael Remley, NRP, SO-ATP, USA  
SFC Sam Patrick, ATP, FP-C, USA  
SFC Paul Loos, ATP, USA  
MAJ Seth Assar, MC, USA  
CAPT Benjamin Walrath, MC, MPH, USN  
SFC James Johnson, FP-C, NRP, USA  
SFC Phillip Hogsed, ATP, FP-C, USA  
HMC Ryan Honnoll, NR-P, USN  
LTC Cord Cunningham, MC, USA

HM1 Steve Brooks, ATP, FP-C, USN  
HMCS Tyler Scarborough, ATP, USN  
1LT Jamie Eastman, RN, FP-C, USA  
CDR Joshua Tobin, MC, USA  
Jonathan Friedman, RN, FP-C (Civ)  
HM2 John Siedler, FP-C  
Andrew Rowley, FP-C, TP-C (Civ)  
LCDR (Ret) Nikki Selby, RN, USN  
1SG Branden Coughlin, NRP, FP-C, USA  
SGT (Ret) Ricky M Ditzel Jr, MC, ATP, FP-C, USA  
SMSgt Brit Adams, USAF, NRP, FP-C  
Col Stacy A Shackelford, USAF, MC

Publication Date: 27 Dec 2021

**01 Sep 2023 update: SAVeO2 oxygen parameters**

#### **Safety statement, Nov 2022**

*CAUTION: The Hamilton T1 as fielded by the Department of Defense DOES NOT support noninvasive ventilation (NIV). In environments where there is a risk of patients requiring NIV, a different ventilator should be fielded.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background .....	3
Definitions .....	3
Mechanics/Physiology of Breathing .....	3
Ventilation .....	4
ABG Definitions .....	5
Ventilator Terms .....	5
Ventilator Modes .....	6
Volume-targeted Modes .....	6
Ventilator Adjustable Settings .....	7
Assessment .....	8
Application of Mechanical Ventilation .....	9
Initial Ventilator Settings .....	9
Troubleshooting .....	10
Changes in Respiratory Status .....	11
Performance Improvement (PI) Monitoring .....	15
References .....	16
Appendix A: Predicted Body Weight and Tidal Volume .....	17
Appendix B: IMPACT 754 .....	18
Appendix C: Zoll EMV+ (731 Series) .....	22
Appendix D: Hamilton T1 .....	23
Appendix E: SAVE II .....	26
Appendix F: Information Regarding Off-label Uses in CPGs .....	28

---

## BACKGROUND

---

Appropriate consideration must be taken when placing a patient on a mechanical ventilator. Ventilator management is resource intensive and demanding which might not make it appropriate for all tactical situations. It is not without risk. The benefits should outweigh the attributable cost and risk of managing the mechanically ventilated patient, especially within the austere/ battlefield setting. Pathology associated with failure to oxygenate and failure to ventilate will most often require definitive airway interventions and appropriate mechanical ventilator support. At times, it may only serve as a temporizing measure while seeking definitive critical care. Institution of mechanical ventilation must be guided by clinical suspicion of underlying pathophysiology and clear criteria. Definitive airway management and sedation are often required for effective mechanical ventilation. See JTS CPGs [Airway Management of Traumatic Injuries and Analgesia and Sedation Management during Prolonged Field Care](#). The intent of this CPG is to provide the non-critical care trained/proficient medical personnel with guidance on basic ventilator management until the appropriate level of care can be reached physically or via telemedicine in the operational environment while supporting ventilation, oxygenation, and reduce labored breathing while ensuring patient comfort. Additional JTS CPGs with ventilatory support considerations are [Acute Respiratory Failure and Wartime Thoracic Injury](#).

---

## DEFINITIONS

---

### MECHANICS/PHYSIOLOGY OF BREATHING

1. **Respiratory drive:** The normal respiratory rate is 12-20 bpm. Respiratory drive is controlled by the hydrogen ion concentration in the cerebrospinal fluid and modified by receptors throughout the body. Increased intracranial pressure, administration of opioids and other medications may cause a decreased respiratory drive causing ventilation insufficient to maintain an adequate level of oxygenation and clearance of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).<sup>1-3</sup>
2. **Work of breathing:** Work of breathing is the mechanical work needed to maintain oxygenation and ventilation. Pain, acidosis, and hypermetabolic states will cause an increased work of breathing. This is not necessarily pathologic but may indicate that the patient has increased CO<sub>2</sub> production and that respiratory support may be needed. Tachypnea secondary to shock could lead to inspiratory muscle fatigue which could eventually require mechanical ventilator support.<sup>1-3</sup>
3. **Lung compliance:** The tendency for the lungs to recoil from an inflated state is a good conceptual representation of compliance. Lung compliance impacts all functions of the respiratory system. Changes in lung compliance may be caused by both intrinsic and extrinsic causes. Atelectasis or fluid/blood in the alveoli can cause an intrinsic decrease in lung compliance. Examples of extrinsic causes of decreased compliance include obesity, pregnancy, burns, and chest wall injury. A decrease in lung compliance from any cause can lead to hypoxemia and hypercapnia. Fentanyl may also cause chest wall rigidity, leading to poor lung compliance.<sup>1-3</sup>
4. **Tidal volume (TV or V<sub>T</sub>):** Is the volume of air that is exchanged in one breath. Decreases in tidal volume can result from external pressure (i.e. Pneumothorax, hemothorax, tension pneumothorax) by effectively reducing lung volume. Dynamic hyperinflation also known as “breath stacking” is caused by the inability to completely exhale and can lead to “auto-positive end expiratory pressure (auto-PEEP).” This may be due to inadequate exhalation time, airflow obstruction, or both. This condition leads to decreasing tidal volumes and can cause hemodynamic compromise.<sup>1-3</sup>
5. **Oxygenation:** The successful binding of oxygen to hemoglobin at the cellular level in the alveoli,

drives  $\text{SaO}_2$  (arterial oxygen saturation) and  $\text{SpO}_2$  (oxygen saturation) values. Successful alveolar gas exchange enables efficient aerobic respiration at the cellular level in all perfused body tissues.<sup>1-3</sup>

6. **Diffusion/exchange:** The process where oxygen ( $\text{O}_2$ ) is exchanged with  $\text{CO}_2$  on red blood cells in the alveoli/pulmonary capillaries for transport to body tissues. Pathologic conditions such as pulmonary edema, pneumonia, and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) can impair diffusion of oxygen across the alveolar membrane leading to reduced oxygen saturation of hemoglobin.<sup>1-3</sup>
7. **Fraction of Inspired Oxygen ( $\text{FIO}_2$ ):** Normal atmospheric air contains 21% oxygen or an  $\text{FIO}_2$  of 0.21. By increasing the percentage of oxygen delivered to the patient (supplemental oxygen), you can potentially increase the arterial oxygen saturation and oxygen content of the bloodstream.<sup>1-3</sup>
8. **Dead Space:** Any part of the airway where gas exchange does not occur, pharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi, and ventilator tubing are examples.
9. **Hypoxia:** A state of  $\text{O}_2$  deficiency in the tissue significant enough to cause impairment of function. There are four types of hypoxia that exist that must be accounted for during ventilator support:<sup>1-3</sup>
  - **Hypoxic Hypoxia:** Occurs when there is not enough available  $\text{O}_2$  in the surrounding environment or when decreasing atmospheric pressure prevents diffusion of  $\text{O}_2$  from the lungs to the bloodstream. Most commonly occurs during unpressurized transport at high altitude (>10,000 ft). This is correctable with supplemental oxygen.
  - **Hypemic Hypoxia:** Reduction of the blood's oxygen carrying capacity due to inadequate red blood cells (RBCs) (e.g., hemorrhage, anemia) or impairment to RBCs, carbon monoxide ( $[\text{CO}]$  poisoning, etc.). Correction of the causal factor is required.
  - **Stagnant Hypoxia:** Occurs at the circulatory level. Blood's  $\text{O}_2$ -carrying capacity is adequate but circulation is inadequate (e.g., high-gravitational (G) forces, heart failure, blood vessel occlusion). Correction of underlying causal factor is required.
  - **Histotoxic Hypoxia:** Results from an interference with the use of  $\text{O}_2$  by body tissues. Alcohol, narcotics, or a poison such as cyanide (blue) is inhaled (or can be ingested) and is delivered to the tissues by the blood where it poisons the tissues, preventing use of available  $\text{O}_2$ . Correction of underlying causal factor is required to positively change.<sup>1-3</sup>

## VENTILATION

1. **Minute ventilation ( $\text{V}_E$ ):** Tidal volume multiplied by the respiratory rate (normal is 60cc/kg/min), usually expressed in liters. The body regulates carbon dioxide through changes in minute ventilation. Increases in carbon dioxide leads to increased respiratory rate and/or tidal volume and increased minute ventilation (amount of air exchanged during one minute of ventilation).<sup>1-3</sup>
2. **Peak Inspiratory Pressure (PIP):** The greatest pressure within the lungs during inspiration. Pressures above 35mmHg have been shown to cause pressure-related lung injury (barotrauma). Ideally, pressures should remain at 30 mmHg and below. Increased peak pressures are usually due to increases in resistance within the respiratory system (e.g., tension pneumothorax, inability for adequate exhalation, edema).<sup>1-3</sup>
3. **Arterial Blood Gas (ABG):** This is the gold standard for evaluating acid-base status, oxygenation, ventilation and adjusting ventilation settings. If a point of care blood gas analyzer is available, this will enable targeted ventilator settings. Knowing these values will greatly improve critical care guidance via telemedicine resources. Consider placement of an arterial cannula for continuous

blood pressure and ABG sampling if it is appropriate for the operational setting and training level of the care provider.

**Normal ABG values:**

- pH (7.35-7.45)
- PaO<sub>2</sub> (75-100 mmHg)
- PaCO<sub>2</sub> (35-45 mmHg)
- HCO<sub>3</sub> (22-26 meq/L)
- Base excess/deficit (-4 to +2)
- SaO<sub>2</sub> (90-96%)<sup>4</sup>

**ABG DEFINITIONS**

1. **pH:** Measure of hydrogen ion concentration (i.e. acid-base status). Acidosis (low pH) leads to coagulopathic states in trauma patients as well as development of potentially fatal cardiac arrhythmias.
2. **PaO<sub>2</sub>:** Measurement of dissolved oxygen in blood, also a measurement of adequacy of gas exchange at the cellular level.
3. **PaCO<sub>2</sub>:** Measurement of dissolved carbon dioxide in blood, also a measurement of adequacy of gas exchange at the cellular level.
4. **HCO<sub>3</sub>:** Measurement of bicarbonate in the blood, serves as a buffer against acid.
5. **Base excess:** Gives indication of metabolic component of blood gas results, most likely will not change field ventilator management but can provide information for telemedicine consultation regarding adequacy of resuscitation.
6. **SaO<sub>2</sub>:** Percentage of oxygen bound to hemoglobin in arterial blood, correlates closely with SpO<sub>2</sub> values.
7. **End Tidal CO<sub>2</sub> (ETCO<sub>2</sub>):** Measurement of carbon dioxide on end tidal expiration. Normal values are 35mmHg-45mmHg. Exhaled gasses are analyzed by either vital signs monitor or portable ETCO<sub>2</sub> devices (e.g., EMMA) a quantitative capnograph or capnometer is the clinical standard of care with invasively ventilated patients.
8. **Plateau Pressure: (PPLAT):** The pressure applied to small airways and alveoli during positive-pressure mechanical ventilation. It is measured during an inspiratory pause on the mechanical ventilator. A mechanically ventilated patient with a plateau pressure greater than 35cm is at an increased risk for barotrauma.

**VENTILATOR TERMS**

1. **Volume-targeted modes:** Volume constant, inspiration terminates when preset V<sub>T</sub> delivered. Peak airway pressure is variable and increases as needed to deliver prescribed V<sub>T</sub>. This is generally represented by a constant flow waveform.
2. **Pressure-targeted modes:** Volume variable, terminates when airflow falls below threshold level. Peak airway pressure is fixed, determined by set pressure level. This is generally represented by a decelerating flow waveform.

3. **Tidal volume ( $V_T$ ):** Is the volume of gas, exchanged during a breath and commonly expressed in milliliters.  $V_T$  is generally set between 4-8 ml/kg ideal body weight (IBW), to prevent lung over distension and barotrauma.
4. **Frequency (f):** Is the rate, per minute, of breathing (patient or ventilator). Known as respiratory rate (RR).
5. **Minute Ventilation ( $V_e$ ):** Is the average volume of gas entering, or leaving, the lungs per minute, commonly expressed in liters per minute. The product of  $V_T$  and RR (respiratory rate). Normal  $V_e$  is 5 – 10 L/min.
6. **Inspiratory (I) and Expiratory (E) time and I:E ratio:** Is the time period over which the  $V_T$  is delivered. Setting a shorter inspiratory time (I) results in a faster inspiratory flow rate in volume cycled ventilation. Average adult inspiratory time is 0.7 to 1 second. I:E ratio is usually 1:2.
7. **Positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP):** Is the amount of positive pressure that is maintained at end-expiration. It is expressed in centimeters of water (cmH<sub>2</sub>O). The purpose of PEEP is to increase end-expiratory lung volume and reduce air-space closure at end-expiration. Normal physiologic PEEP is 5 cmH<sub>2</sub>O.
8. **Pressure Support (PS):** Delivers flow at a set pressure, generally to overcome resistance of the airway and ventilator circuit. PS can also be used to support a spontaneously breathing patient, such as with Bi-PAP.
9. **Flow:** Is the velocity at which gas is delivered to the patient, expressed in liters per minute. When the flow rate is set higher, the speed of gas delivery is faster and inspiratory time is shorter.
10. **Peak Inspiratory Pressure (PIP):** Represents the total pressure that is required to deliver the  $V_T$  and depends upon various airway resistance, lung compliance, and chest wall factors. It is expressed in centimeters of water (cmH<sub>2</sub>O).
11. **Sensitivity or trigger sensitivity:** Effort, or negative pressure, required by the patient to trigger a machine breath, commonly set so that minimal effort (-1 to -2 cmH<sub>2</sub>O) is required to trigger a breath.<sup>1,3</sup>

---

## VENTILATOR MODES

---

### VOLUME-TARGETED MODES

1. **Volume-targeted modes:**
  - a. **Volume Assist/Control (V-AC), Assist Control (AC) or Volume Control Ventilation (VCV):** Delivers a preset number of mandatory breaths per minute. The patient can take their own breaths in addition to mandatory breaths, with each spontaneous breath receiving the full preset tidal volume. Airway pressures can vary during delivery.<sup>1-3</sup>
  - b. **Volume Synchronized Intermittent Mandatory Ventilation (V-SIMV)** combines mandatory breaths and supported breaths. The ventilator delivers a preset number of mandatory breaths per minute. Any breaths over the set rate will be supported with a fixed amount of pressure support.<sup>1-3</sup>

## 2. Pressure-targeted modes:

- a. **Pressure Support Ventilation (PSV)** supports every patient breath with a preset amount of pressure support. No mandatory breaths are given, so the patient must be spontaneously breathing.
- b. **Pressure Assist control (P-AC), or Pressure Control Ventilation (PCV)** delivers a set number of mandatory pressure controlled breaths, in which the patient receives a fixed pressure during a preset inspiratory time. Any breaths over the set rate will be pressure controlled with the same amount of pressure. The delivered tidal volume will be based on the amount of pressure applied, the lung compliance and airway resistance of the patient.
3. **Adaptive Support Ventilation (ASV):** *(Is only available on the Hamilton T1)* ASV provides intelligent ventilation mode that continuously adjusts respiratory rate, tidal volume, and inspiratory time depending on the patient's lung mechanics and effort. This is similar to "Auto-Flow" or other like settings on different brands of ventilators.
4. **Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP).**
5. **Pressure Regulated Volume Control (PRVC)** (may be Impact 731 only).

## VENTILATOR ADJUSTABLE SETTINGS

1. **Tidal volume ( $V_T$ ):** the volume of gas, exchanged during a breath and commonly expressed in milliliters.  $V_T$  is generally set between 4-8ml/kg IBW, to prevent lung over distension and barotrauma.<sup>4-8</sup>
2. **Ideal IBW:** the weight at which tidal volume is calculated against instead of using actual weight. This enables patients to be ventilated in a lung-protective strategy. A quick reference chart can be found in [Appendix A](#). IBW can be calculated manually as follows:
  - a. Male:  $\{(Height\ in\ inches - 60) \times 2.2\} + 50$  (e.g.  $72in - 60 = 12$ ;  $12 \times 2.2 = 26.4$ ;  $26.4 + 50 = IBW\ of\ 76.4\ kg$ )
  - b. Female:  $\{(Height\ in\ inches - 60) \times 2.2\} + 45$  (e.g.  $65in - 60 = 5$ ;  $5 \times 2.2 = 11$ ;  $11 + 45 = IBW\ of\ 56\ kg$ )
1. **Minute Ventilation ( $V_E$ ):** The average volume of gas entering, or leaving, the lungs per minute, commonly expressed in liters per minute. Also called minute volume. Minute ventilation is the product of  $V_T$  and RR (respiratory rate). Normal  $V_E$  is 5 – 10 L/min.<sup>5-9</sup>
2. **I:E Ratio:** See I:E definition. I:E might need to be adjusted for physiology that requires extended exhalation time.<sup>5-9</sup> For example: Asthma patient may require an I:E of 1:3, 1:4, or 1:5 to allow for more exhalation time.
3. **Flow Rate:** Is the velocity at which gas is delivered to the patient, expressed in liters per minute. When the flow rate is set higher, the speed of gas delivery is faster and inspiratory time is shorter.<sup>5-9</sup>
4. **Peak Inspiratory Pressure (PIP):** Represents the total pressure that is required to deliver the  $V_T$  and depends upon various airway resistance, lung compliance, and chest wall factors. It is expressed in centimeters of water (cm H<sub>2</sub>O).
5. **Sensitivity or trigger sensitivity:** Is the effort, or negative pressure, required by the patient to trigger a machine breath, commonly set so that minimal effort (-1 to -2 cm H<sub>2</sub>O) triggers a breath.<sup>1,3</sup> This is usually seen with assist modes of ventilator operation.
6. **Pressure alarms:** Pressure alarms ensure that providers are alerted to pressures that fall outside of

appropriate ranges and have potential to harm the patient via barotrauma (over-pressure) or under-ventilation (circuit disconnect or under-pressure). Pressures will be determined by placing the patient on the vent for ~1-2 minutes and determining intrinsic peak inspiratory pressure. (Labeled as PEAK on 754 Ventilator (top right); Labeled as peak on Hamilton T1 ventilator (top left); Labeled as PIP on ZOLL EMV+ (731) (right center). Standard alarm settings should be:

- a. High pressure alarm: 10 cmH<sub>2</sub>O above peak airway pressure.
- b. Low pressure alarm: 5 cmH<sub>2</sub>O below peak airway pressure.

---

## ASSESSMENT

---

Determining the need for mechanical ventilation early is critical for the effective application of a mechanical ventilation device. Clinical suspicion is vital to adequately predict a patient who will progress to respiratory compromise. Respiratory compromise requiring ventilator support can be identified early in M-massive hemorrhage, A-airway, R-respiratory, C-circulation, and H-hypothermia (MARCH) assessment. Inability to adequately oxygenate, ventilate, or guard the airway are indications for mechanical ventilatory support. Though it is uncommon for a mechanical ventilator to be applied at point of injury, the treating provider can begin to take steps necessary to prepare for the application of a ventilator (i.e. supplemental O<sub>2</sub>, positioning, airway interventions).

---

**NOTE:** *Apneic patients with adequate circulation and an open airway require immediate mechanical ventilation (i.e. bag valve mask [BVM]).*

---

Though ABGs are the standard for managing patients with respiratory compromise, they are not often readily available in the operational environment. Utilization of pulse oximetry (SpO<sub>2</sub>) and capnography/capnometry (ETCO<sub>2</sub>) can provide a rapid assessment of a patient's respiratory status (devices to achieve both are readily available in medical logistics systems).

SpO<sub>2</sub> values < 90% are indicative of potential oxygenation issues; however, values can be unreliable due to poor perfusion and altitude.

ETCO<sub>2</sub> values >45mmHg are indicative of hypoventilation, especially in the absence of tachypnea. Values <35mmHg are indicative of hyperventilation and should be corrected in the least invasive manner. Mental preparation for mechanical respiratory support should be considered.

A high index of suspicion for sepsis or other metabolic acidosis should be maintained in patients with low ETCO<sub>2</sub> and hyperventilation.

*The inability for a casualty to maintain appropriate SpO<sub>2</sub> or ETCO<sub>2</sub> values through less invasive measures (airway adjuncts, supplemental O<sub>2</sub>, etc.) indicates the need for escalating support. For locations with point of care blood analyzers, inadequate blood gas values also indicate the need for respiratory support.*

**WARNING:** *Prior to the application of mechanical ventilation and/or initiation of invasive airway devices (e.g., Endotracheal Tube (ETT), extraglottic airways), patients must receive adequate sedation (and paralysis as appropriate/required). Detailed guidelines for the initiation and maintenance of this sedation can be found in [Analgesia and Sedation Management during Prolonged Field Care](#).*



---

## APPLICATION OF MECHANICAL VENTILATION

---

If respiratory insufficiency amenable to respiratory support is identified during the assessment, the initiation of timely mechanical ventilation can improve casualty outcomes. This can be as simple as bag BVM support or as complex as a critical care transport ventilator (e.g. Hamilton T1 or Zoll EMV+).<sup>10,16</sup>

---

**CAUTION:** BVM respiratory support should be utilized as a temporary measure until mechanical ventilators can be applied. BVMs deliver irregular  $V_T$  and respiratory rates leading to inconsistent blood gas values.

**NOTE:** Many patients may require increased sedation (and paralysis) for effective ventilation. Patients who are not properly sedated may cause issues with high pressure alarms as they breathe over the ventilator increasing their minute volume and intrathoracic pressures.

---



---

## INITIAL VENTILATOR SETTINGS

---

\*Prior to first use, ensure ventilator (as applicable) has been pre-set to utilize parameters of the user's choice. Some ventilators may be preset to deliver an inspiration time (I-Time) instead of an I:E ratio. Failure to appropriately set up and save these ventilator settings may delay use of the ventilator.

1. **MODE:** AC or ASV (Hamilton T1 only)
2. **BPM/RRate:** 14BPM (10-30 range)
3. **TIDAL VOLUME:** 6ml/kg IBW (4-8ml/kg IBW range)

Quick Reference (Male): (Detailed reference in [Appendix A](#))

- 66" = ~380cc [min: 255 / max: 510]
  - 69" = ~420cc [min: 283 / max: 566]
  - 72" = ~465cc [min: 310 / max: 621]
  - 75" = ~505cc [min: 338 / max: 676]
4. **FiO<sub>2</sub>:** 21 - 100% (0.21-1.0) (low flow O<sub>2</sub> @ 3 LPM (liters per minute) = ~ 40% FiO<sub>2</sub> [flowrate on Saros oxygen concentrator])
  5. **I:E Ratio:** 1:2
  6. **PEEP:** 5 [Range 5-20 cmH<sub>2</sub>O]
  7. **Pressure Support:** 5 [Range 5-20 cmH<sub>2</sub>O] Consider adding if the patient has airway edema or is being ventilated through a narrower diameter ETT.

---

## INITIAL VENTILATOR SETTINGS

---

**NOTE:** Initial Ventilator settings are based on the patient's ideal body weight (IBW) and clinical condition. However, "basic" or standard starting points are necessary to begin treatment.

---

1. Set the ventilator to Volume Assist/Control.
2. Set driving mechanics by type of ventilation. Tidal Volume at 4-6 mL/kg IBW (Average adult male is 500 mL).

3. Set rate to maintain an appropriate minute ventilation ( $V_E$ ) of 4-8 L/min ( $V_T \times \text{Rate} = V_E$ ).
  - a. For a MV of 6L and a  $V_T$  of 500, set the rate at 12.
  - b. Continuous capnometry or capnography is the standard for invasive airway management and should be used to monitor ventilations and as a tool to increase or decrease frequency.  $\text{ETCO}_2$  is especially important for monitoring TBI cases.
4. Set appropriate PEEP. Minimum of 5 cmH<sub>2</sub>O. Start there and titrate up as needed. In hypoxic patients, consider starting at 10 cmH<sub>2</sub>O.
5. Set FiO<sub>2</sub>. Depending on clinical condition the patient may need high FiO<sub>2</sub>. Start at 100% and titrate down using arterial blood gas and SpO<sub>2</sub> data. Do not rely on SpO<sub>2</sub> alone (if possible).<sup>8</sup>
6. Set Inspiratory: Expiratory Ratio (I:E) to 1:2 for most patients. Adjust to clinical conditions.
7. Oxygen requirements can be roughly calculated using Minute Ventilation x FiO<sub>2</sub> fraction to determine LPM of pure O<sub>2</sub> required (e.g.,  $V_E$  of 6 LPM @ 50% FiO<sub>2</sub> (0.5) = 3 LPM bottled or generated O<sub>2</sub> required.)

---

**NOTE:** Full D cylinder is ~425 liters O<sub>2</sub> at 2200psi (i.e. ~141minutes O<sub>2</sub> @ 3 LPM requirement above). Calculations should account for discrepancies in tank fill, leaks, dead space, etc. (consider a planning factor of 1.5X calculated requirement).

---

---

## TROUBLESHOOTING

---

**Airway compromise or lost airway:** If at any time the patient begins to de-saturate or develop respiratory problems, immediately disconnect the ventilator, and manually ventilate the patient with BVM (with PEEP valve if available) and 100% O<sub>2</sub> while correcting issues utilizing the following **D.O.P.E.** algorithm.<sup>8</sup>

- **Displacement:** Verify that ETT is in place, patient not extubated/tube did not move during transfer. If the ETT has advanced – pull back to original length and attempt to bag; if tube has pulled farther out of trachea, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ADVANCE the ETT without laryngoscopy or placement of bougie to verify tracheal placement. When advancing the bougie, feel for tracheal rings or stop/ resistance at the carina. If in doubt, remove the endotracheal tube and attempt BVM. If air movement is adequate, continue to bag ventilate the patient. Upon stabilization, consider alternative advanced airways (supraglottic airway or cricothyroidotomy).  
\*\*If ETT moves freely, access for ETT bulb rupture via cuff manometer.<sup>10</sup>
- **Obstructions:** Assess for secretions in ETT. Suction if indicated.
- **Pressure:** Ensure that a tension pneumothorax / hemothorax has not developed (if the chest tube is in place, ensure it is properly suctioning, not kinked or clamped). If tension pneumo/hemothorax is suspected, perform immediate needle thoracentesis. Assess the need for escharotomy if circumferentially burned. Consider additional paralysis and sedation if patient does not tolerate ventilation.<sup>8,10</sup>
- **Equipment:** Ensure that ventilator did not fail; O<sub>2</sub> tank not empty. If ventilator is operational, trace all tubes to the patient connection (airway tube, transducer line, exhalation line) ensuring patency and connections.<sup>8</sup>

- The utilization of concurrent waveform capnography may assist in determining the causative issue while working the D.O.P.E mnemonic.

**High pressure alarms / Peak airway pressure alarms** (Peak pressure >35 cm H<sub>2</sub>O): Correct problems causing increased airway resistance and decreased lung compliance, including pneumothorax or pulmonary edema. Check the ventilator to ensure the prescribed tidal volume is being delivered. Check for linked/crushed tubing.

**Air leaks causing low pressure alarms / volume loss:** Assess, correct air leaks in endotracheal tube, tracheostomy cuff, ventilator system; recheck ventilator to make sure prescribed tidal volume is delivered.<sup>10</sup>

**Ventilator dyssynchrony:** Is a clinical entity in which ventilator gas delivery and patient respiratory mechanics are not matched. Agitation and respiratory distress that develop in a patient on a mechanical ventilator who has previously appeared comfortable represents an important clinical circumstance that requires a thorough assessment and an organized approach. The patient should not always be automatically re-sedated but must instead be evaluated for several potentially life-threatening developments that can present in this fashion.<sup>15</sup>

**Lung hyperinflation (air trapping) and auto-PEEP:** Dynamic hyperinflation is associated with positive end-expiratory alveolar pressure, or auto-PEEP. The physiologic effects of air trapping include decreased cardiac preload because of diminished venous return into the chest. This can lead to hypotension and, if severe, to pulseless electrical activity and cardiac arrest. Dynamic hyperinflation can also lead to local alveolar over-distention and rupture. Prevent and manage lung hyperinflation by decreasing tidal volume, changing inspiratory and expiratory phase parameters, switching to another mode, and correcting physiological abnormalities that increase airway resistance.<sup>12, 13</sup> In an emergency, auto-PEEP from air trapping can be relieved by simply disconnecting the circuit from the endotracheal tube for 3-5 seconds, and then reconnecting.

---

## CHANGES IN RESPIRATORY STATUS

---

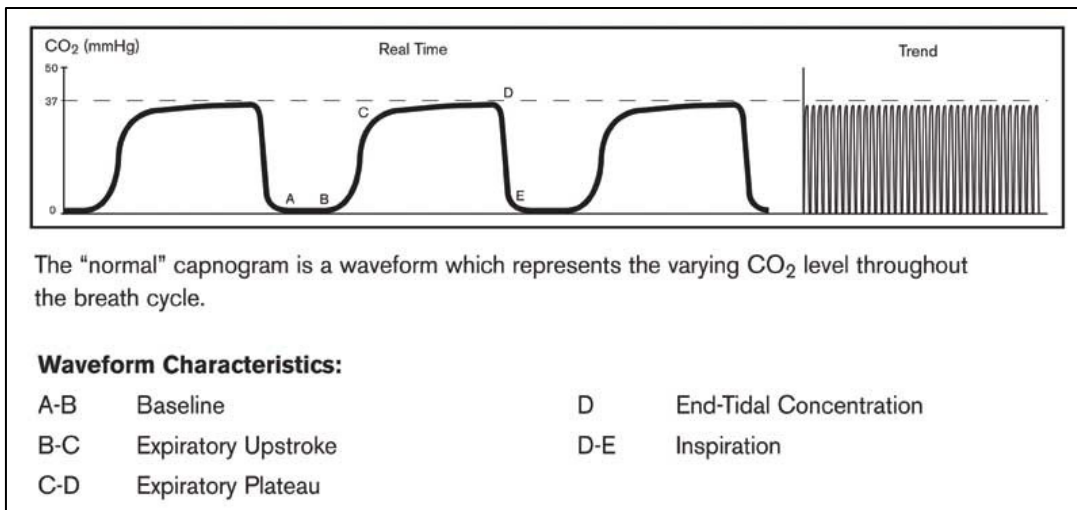
1. Assess patient's prior interventions.
2. Assess the following patient's respiratory status:
  - Rate
  - Rhythm
  - Depth
  - Effort
3. Assess monitors:
  - Oxygenation (SpO<sub>2</sub>)
  - ETCO<sub>2</sub> (with advanced airway)
  - Cardiac monitoring if available
4. Determine cause of ventilation issue and/or ventilator alarm using DOPE mnemonic.

**Table 1. Trouble shooting – DOPE Algorithm**

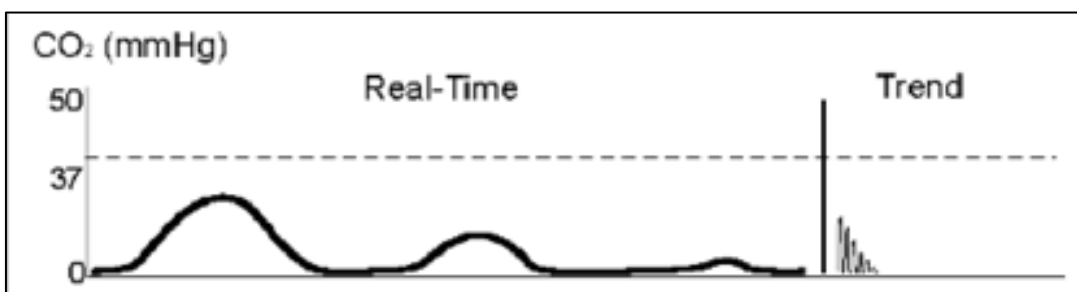
Alarm	DOPE	Possible Cause	Troubleshooting
High Pressure	D	Mainstem intubation	If the tube has advanced and unilateral ventilation is confirmed, retract the tube to proper depth using bougie technique to maintain placement.
High Pressure	D	Esophageal intubation	If the tube is advanced and unilateral ventilation is not present, rule out esophageal intubation. If breath sounds are present over abdomen, or gastric distention noted, remove the ET tube and secure airway by other means and place gastric tube for evacuation of gastric contents.
High Pressure	O	Obstruction of ET tube	Place patient on FiO <sub>2</sub> 1.0 (100%) and prepare suction equipment. Suction airway using standard technique. If inhalation injury is suspected (burn, agent), saline may be used to facilitate suctioning.
High Pressure	O/E	Obstruction of ventilator circuit	Ensure circuit connections are attached and not kinked paying particular attention to connections and sharp bends.
High Pressure	P	Pulmonary circuit	Rule out/treat hemo/pneumothorax.
High Pressure	P	Pulmonary circuit	Consider Pulmonary Edema. Prolong Inspiratory time if appropriate (i.e. adjust from 1:3 to 1:2 to 1:1).
High Pressure	P	Pulmonary circuit	Consider airway swelling; may need to add or increase Pressure Support
High Pressure	P	Pulmonary circuit	Evaluate Tidal Volume. Consider lowering by 1cc/kg (min. 4cc/kg).
High Pressure	P	Patient arousal	Address analgesia/sedation needs.
High Pressure	P	Stacked breath/air trapping	Disconnect patient from the circuit and allow full exhale. Address cause (patient triggering, high rate, incomplete exhalation).
High Pressure	P	Chest tube malfunction	If hemo/pneumothorax are suspected, disconnect all attachments and troubleshoot chest tube and components.
High Pressure	P	Patient position	If laying supine, elevate head of bed (HOB) to reduce gravitational pressure on the chest.
High Pressure	E	Alarm setting	After ensuring patient optimization, adjust alarm settings.
Low Pressure	D	Extubation	If tube has been removed from the trachea, secure the airway using method within scope/skill of the provider.
Low Pressure	D	Esophageal intubation	If tube is advanced and unilateral ventilation is not present, rule out esophageal intubation. If breath sounds present over abdomen, or gastric distention noted, remove ET tube and secure airway by other means and place gastric tube for evacuation of gastric contents.
Low Pressure	E	ET tube balloon	Ensure ET Tube cuff is inflated (25-35 cmH <sub>2</sub> O). If the cuff will not maintain inflation, exchange ET tube using bougie technique.
Low Pressure	E	Ventilator disconnect/leak	Ensure all connections are attached securely to the appropriate point. Run bare hand along circuit to feel any air escaping during inhalation paying special attention to valves and connections.
Low SpO <sub>2</sub>	DOPE	Assess patient	For acute desaturation, place FiO <sub>2</sub> at 1.0 (100%). Check chest rise and fall, ETCO <sub>2</sub> , SpO <sub>2</sub> probe placement. Check all

Alarm	DOPE	Possible Cause	Troubleshooting
			conditions from high/low pressure chart to rule out other alarm failures.
Low SpO <sub>2</sub>	x	Increase in altitude	Increase FiO <sub>2</sub> to compensate for decrease in pressure.
Low SpO <sub>2</sub>	x	Patient deterioration	If desaturation is gradual and presumed to be caused by patient pathology, increase PEEP and FiO <sub>2</sub> in a stepwise fashion according to ARDSNet table.
Low SpO <sub>2</sub>	x	Patient deterioration	Attempt alveolar recruitment maneuvers. Inflation to 30 - 40 cm H <sub>2</sub> O for 30 - 40 seconds (difficult with PMI). Recruitment maneuver can be performed with bag-valve manual ventilation. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set PEEP valve on bag-valve unit to 15 - 20 cm H<sub>2</sub>O.</li> <li>2. Deliver five sequential breaths, each held for 5 - 8 seconds.</li> <li>3. Watch blood pressure closely. Terminate if hypotension develops.</li> <li>4. Clamp endotracheal tube while switching between ventilator and bag.</li> <li>5. Immediately assess for tension pneumothorax, if applicable.</li> </ol>
Low SpO <sub>2</sub>	E	O <sub>2</sub> supply	Check O <sub>2</sub> PSI and condition of hose/connections.)
High ETCO <sub>2</sub>	E	Incorrect vent settings	V <sub>E</sub> may be too low (Adjust V <sub>T</sub> f/I:E for patients IWB).
High ETCO <sub>2</sub>	x	Hypermetabolic state	Address pain, shivering, hyperthermia / infection.
High ETCO <sub>2</sub>	x	Respiratory insufficiency	Increase rate (current EtCO <sub>2</sub> x current rate/40). V <sub>E</sub> may be too high (Ensure proper V <sub>T</sub> /f/I:E for patients IWB).
Low ETCO <sub>2</sub>	E	Incorrect vent settings	V <sub>E</sub> may be too high (Ensure proper V <sub>T</sub> /f/I:E for patients IWB).
Low ETCO <sub>2</sub>		Ventilator dyssynchrony	If on AC and patient is not properly sedated, the patient may be breathing over the ventilator settings, increasing their V <sub>E</sub> . Consider sedation medications followed by paralytics, as needed.
Low ETCO <sub>2</sub>	x	Low perfusion state (hypovolemia or sepsis)	CHECK PATIENT'S PULSE FOLLOWING RAPID DROP. Continue to resuscitate patient within scope and skill.
Low ETCO <sub>2</sub>	x	Decrease in alveolar ventilation	Suction patient if suspected mucus/secretion plug. If associated with high pressure alarm, consider alveolar distention (air trapping/stacked breathing): remove patient from ventilator and allow full exhale.
Low ETCO <sub>2</sub>	x	Respiratory compensation (metabolic acidosis)	DO NOT ATTEMPT TO NORMALIZE patient's breathing without ABG and expert consultation.

Source: USASAM, Enroute Care Branch Ventilator Guide<sup>16</sup>

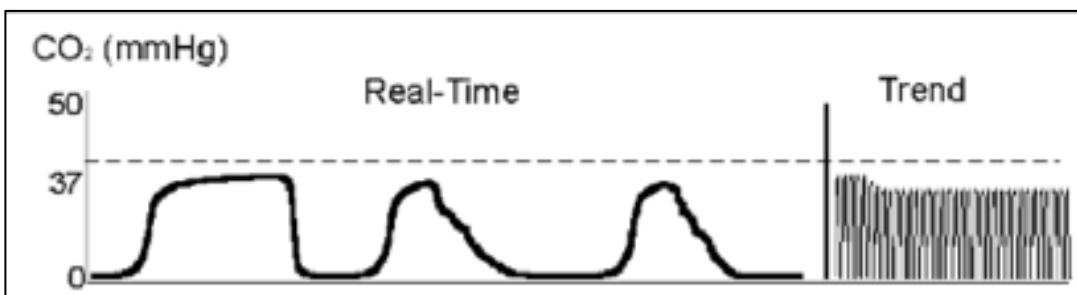
**Figure 1. Recently published USAF EMS protocols****Normal Capnogram, Normal ETCO<sub>2</sub>: 35-45 mmHg**

Courtesy Respiration Inc. (2005). Capnography Reference Handbook.

**Endotracheal Tube in Esophagus**

Possible causes:

- Missed intubation
- A normal capnogram is the best evidence that the ET tube is correctly positioned.
- With ET tube in the esophagus, little or no CO<sub>2</sub> is present.

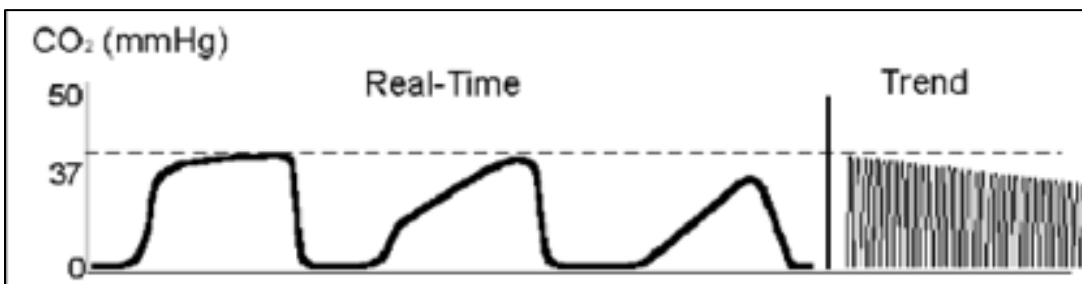
**Inadequate Seal around ET Tube**

Possible causes:

- Leaky or deflated endotracheal or tracheostomy cuff

- Artificial airway is too small for the patient.

### Obstruction in Airway or Breathing Circuit



Possible causes:

- Partially kinked or occluded artificial airway
- Presence of foreign body in the airway
- Obstruction in expiratory limb of breathing circuit
- Bronchospasm

Source: <https://openairway.org/capnography>

---

## PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (PI) MONITORING

---

### POPULATION OF INTEREST

All patients with an advanced airway requiring mechanical ventilation during transport.

### INTENT (EXPECTED OUTCOMES)

1. Initial tidal volume is based on ideal body weight, targeting 6cc/kg.
2. EtCO<sub>2</sub> is monitored when available, targeting a range between 35-45 mmHg.
3. Adjustments to respiratory rate, tidal volume, F<sub>I</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and PEEP are based on clinical indicators (i.e. oxygen saturation, peak airway pressure, EtCO<sub>2</sub>) and documented on DA 4700 (TACEVAC Patient Care Record).
4. All patients in the population of interest arrive with PaCO<sub>2</sub> 35-45mmHg.

### PERFORMANCE/ADHERENCE MEASURES

Number and percentage of patients with an advanced airway that arrive with initial PaCO<sub>2</sub> 35-45mmHg.

### DATA SOURCES

- Patient Record
- Department of Defense Trauma Registry (DoDTR)

### SYSTEM REPORTING & FREQUENCY

The above constitutes the minimum criteria for PI monitoring of this CPG. System reporting will be performed annually; additional PI monitoring and system reporting may be performed as needed.

The system review and data analysis will be performed by the JTS Chief and the JTS PI Branch.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the trauma team leader's responsibility to ensure familiarity, appropriate compliance and PI monitoring at the local level with this CPG.

---

## REFERENCES

---

1. Grossbach I, Chlan L, Tracy MF. Overview of mechanical ventilatory support and management of patient-and ventilator-related responses. *Critical care nurse*, 2011. 31(3), 30-44.
2. How the Lungs Work. (n.d.). Retrieved Sep 25, 2020, from <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics/how-lungs-work>
3. Wilcox SR, Richards JB, Fisher DF, et al. Initial mechanical ventilator settings and lung protective ventilation in the ED. *The American journal of emergency medicine*, 2016. 34(8), 1446-1451. 2021.
4. Ginde AA. Strategy to Avoid Excessive Oxygen (SAVE-O2) in Critically Ill Trauma Patients: A Multicenter Cluster-Randomized, Stepped Wedge Trial for Targeted Normoxemia. Scientific Plenary Presentation (MHSRS-23-10446), Military Health System Research Symposium; August 14, 2023.
5. Maddry JK, Mora AG, Savell SC, et al. Impact of Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) ventilator management on combat mortality. *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*, 2018. 84(1), 157-164.
6. Hardy GB, Maddry JK, Ng PC, et al. Impact of prehospital airway management on combat mortality. *The American journal of emergency medicine*, 2018. 36(6), 1032-1035.
7. Shah AA, Kettle PB, Niven AS. Ventilator management: a practical approach to respiratory failure in combat casualties. In *Front Line Surgery*, 2017. 631-646.
8. Wilcox SR, Saia MS, Waden H, et al. Mechanical ventilation in critical care transport. *Air Medical Journal*, 2016. 35(3), 161-165.
9. Hollott J, Stokoe A, Vallance S, et al. Advanced ventilation and monitoring during helicopter hoist extraction of an intubated patient. *Air Medical Journal*, Nov 2020. 39(6), 512-515
10. Delorenzo AJ, Shepherd M, Jennings PA. Endotracheal cuff pressure changes during helicopter transport: a systematic review. *Air Medical Journal*, 2017. 36(2), 81-84.
11. Galvagno, SM. Understanding ventilation vs oxygenation is key in airway management. *Journal of Emergency Medical Services*. Nov 19, 2012.
12. Acosta P, Santisbon E, Varon J. The use of positive end-expiratory pressure in mechanical ventilation. *Critical Care Clin*, Apr 23, 2007 (2), 251-61.
13. Pierson, D. J. (2008). A primer on mechanical ventilation.
14. Marino, PL. *The ICU Book*, 4/e. Wolters Kluwer India Pvt Ltd. 2014
15. Hamilton Medical. (2015). HAMILTON-T1 Quick Guide [Pamphlet]. Reno, NV. 2015.
16. *Fundamental Critical Care Support*. 6th ED. Society of Critical Care Medicine. 2017
17. U.S. Army MEDEVAC Critical Care Flight Paramedic Standard Medical Operating Guidelines (SMOG), 2021.



## APPENDIX A: PREDICTED BODY WEIGHT AND TIDAL VOLUME

Predicted Body Weight and Tidal Volume ( $V_T$ )

Male PBW and Tidal Volume							
Height		Predicted Body Weight	ml per kg of PBW (total V <sub>T</sub> )				
Ft/In"	Inches		4.0 ml	5.0 ml	6.0 ml	7.0 ml	8.0 ml
4'0"	48	22.4	90	112	134	157	179
4'1"	49	24.7	99	124	148	173	198
4'2"	50	27	108	135	162	189	216
4'3"	51	29.3	117	147	176	205	234
4'4"	52	31.6	126	158	190	221	253
4'5"	53	33.9	136	170	203	237	271
4'6"	54	36.2	145	181	217	253	290
4'7"	55	38.5	154	193	231	270	308
4'8"	56	40.8	163	204	245	286	326
4'9"	57	43.1	172	216	259	302	345
4'10"	58	45.4	182	227	272	318	363
4'11"	59	47.7	191	239	286	334	382
5'0"	60	50	200	250	300	350	400
5'1"	61	52.3	209	262	314	366	418
5'2"	62	54.6	218	273	328	382	437
5'3"	63	56.9	228	285	341	398	455
5'4"	64	59.2	237	296	355	414	474
5'5"	65	61.5	246	308	369	431	492
5'6"	66	63.8	255	319	383	447	510
5'7"	67	66.1	264	331	397	463	529
5'8"	68	68.4	274	342	410	479	547
5'9"	69	70.7	283	354	424	495	566
5'10"	70	73	292	365	438	511	584
5'11"	71	75.3	301	377	452	527	602
6'0"	72	77.6	310	388	466	543	621
6'1"	73	79.9	320	400	479	559	639
6'2"	74	82.2	329	411	493	575	658
6'3"	75	84.5	338	423	507	592	676
6'4"	76	86.8	347	434	521	608	694
6'5"	77	89.1	356	446	535	624	713
6'6"	78	91.4	366	457	548	640	731
6'7"	79	93.7	375	469	562	656	750
6'8"	80	96	384	480	576	672	768
6'9"	81	98.3	393	492	590	688	786
6'10"	82	100.6	402	503	604	704	805
6'11"	83	102.9	412	515	617	720	823
7'0"	84	105.2	421	526	631	736	842

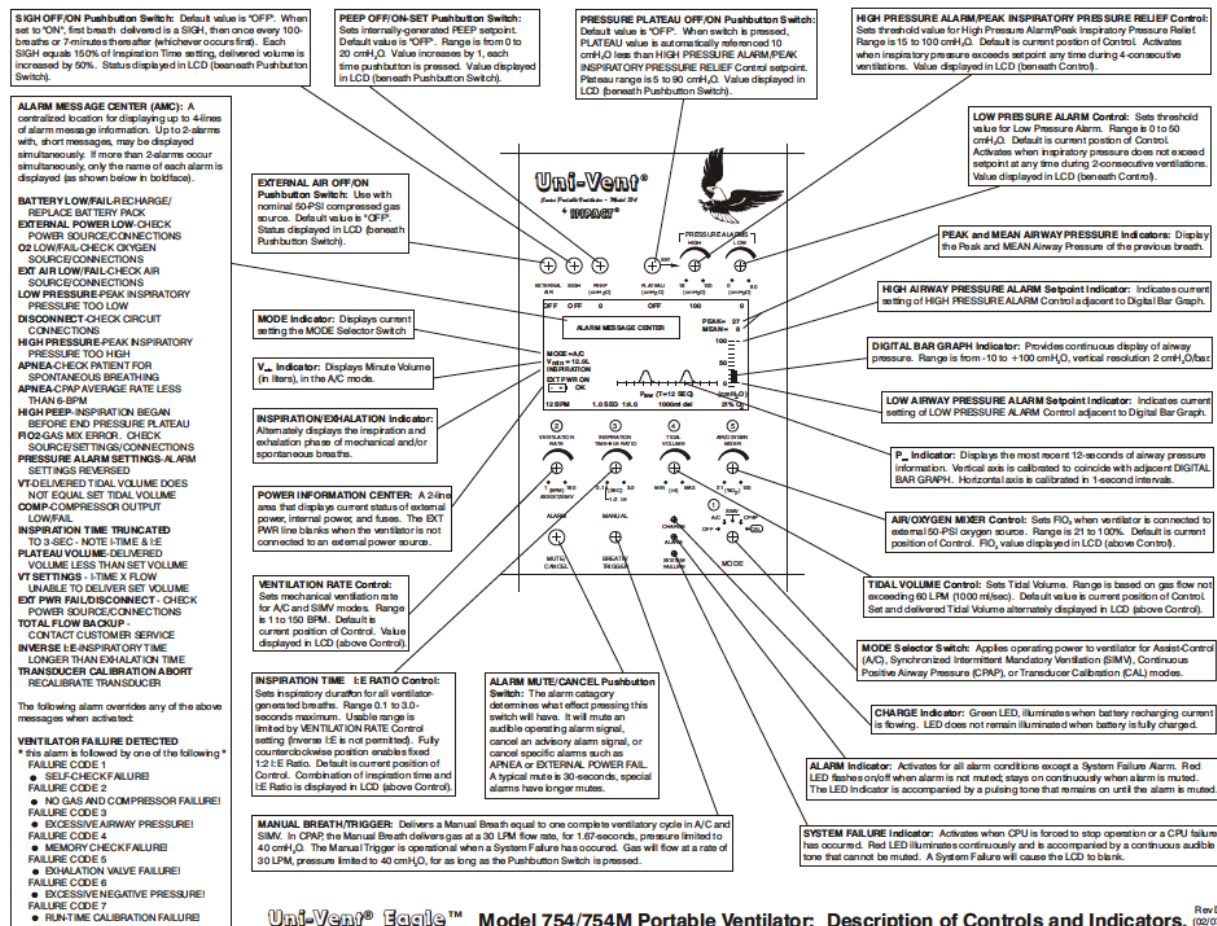
PBW Males =  $50 + 2.3$  [height (inches) - 60]

Female PBW and Tidal Volume							
Height		Predicted Body Weight	ml per kg of PBW (total V <sub>T</sub> )				
Ft/In"	Inches		4.0m l	5.0 ml	6.0 ml	7.0 ml	8.0 ml
4'0"	48	17.9	72	90	107	125	143
4'1"	49	20.2	81	101	121	141	162
4'2"	50	22.5	90	113	135	158	180
4'3"	51	24.8	99	124	149	174	198
4'4"	52	27.1	108	136	163	190	217
4'5"	53	29.4	118	147	176	206	235
4'6"	54	31.7	127	159	190	222	254
4'7"	55	34	136	170	204	238	272
4'8"	56	36.3	145	182	218	254	290
4'9"	57	38.6	154	193	232	270	309
4'10"	58	40.9	164	205	245	286	327
4'11"	59	43.2	173	216	259	302	346
5'0"	60	45.5	182	228	273	319	364
5'1"	61	47.8	191	239	287	335	382
5'2"	62	50.1	200	251	301	351	401
5'3"	63	52.4	210	262	314	367	419
5'4"	64	54.7	219	274	328	383	438
5'5"	65	57	228	285	342	399	456
5'6"	66	59.3	237	297	356	415	474
5'7"	67	61.6	246	308	370	431	493
5'8"	68	63.9	256	320	383	447	511
5'9"	69	66.2	265	331	397	463	530
5'10"	70	68.5	274	343	411	480	548
5'11"	71	70.8	283	354	425	496	566
6'0"	72	73.1	292	366	439	512	585
6'1"	73	75.4	302	377	452	528	603
6'2"	74	77.7	311	389	466	544	622
6'3"	75	80	320	400	480	560	640
6'4"	76	82.3	329	412	494	576	658
6'5"	77	84.6	338	423	508	592	677
6'6"	78	86.9	348	435	521	608	695
6'7"	79	89.2	357	446	535	624	714
6'8"	80	91.5	366	458	549	641	732
6'9"	81	93.8	375	469	563	657	750
6'10"	82	96.1	384	481	577	673	769
6'11"	83	98.4	394	492	590	689	787
7'0"	84	100.7	403	504	604	705	806

PBW Females =  $45.5 + 2.3$  [height (inches) - 60]ARDSnet, NIH NHLBI ARDS Clinical Network Mechanical Ventilation  $V_T$  card

## APPENDIX B: IMPACT 754

**NOTE:** Some Geographic Combatant Commands (GCC) have placed restrictions on use of Impact 754 Ventilators in U.S. Central Command. Check with the GCC Surgeon cell prior to utilization in theater.



Uni-Vent® Eagle™ Model 754/1500 Portable Ventilator: Description of Controls and Indicators. Rev D (02/07)

## RULE OF 5S (KEEP IT SIMPLE VENT SETTINGS FOR ADULTS)

There are five numbered dials on the front of the Eagle/Impact Vent. Most settings can be set by remembering multiples of five. Do not hook up casually to the breathing circuit until after the PEEP is set.

1. Dial 1 — Turn on to calibrate. You must calibrate the vent every time you turn it on. Turn the knob to the right. The LED display will show "Cal-Mode" and then "Cal-OK;" turn the knob to the left past Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) and to Synchronized Intermittent Mandatory Ventilation (SIMV) or Assist Control.
2. Dial 2 — Ventilatory Rate — set at 10.
3. Dial 3 — I:E ratio of 1:2. Turn the knob all of the way to the left. This setting is generally satisfactory for all adults and pediatrics with trauma related requirements for mechanical ventilation. Medical problems like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma may require longer ratios, and this should be assessed after the initial settings have been set.
4. Dial 4 — Tidal Volume of 500 ml and adjust as needed. Tidal volume calculation is 4-8 ml/kg, therefore 6 ml/kg is recommended after the initial setting of 500.

5. Dial 5 — Air/oxygen mixer. For room air the knob will be all of the way to the left and for 100% O<sub>2</sub> will be all of the way to the right.

## IMPACT 754 VENTILATOR PRE-MISSION CHECKS AND TROUBLESHOOTING

### Routine Care

Clean the unit and hose attachments with damp soapy cloth and wipe dry. Remove the inlet filter to check for dirt or debris. Check metal hose couplings for thread wear and debris.

### Duty Inspection

1. Power Off Checks:
  - a. Verify inspection is within the calibration date (6-month maintenance cycle).
  - b. Check the air inlet is clear of obstructions and the filter is in place (Right side of vent).
  - c. Verify the Gas ("OXYGEN IN" and "AIR IN") and Patient ("EXHALATION VALVE" and "TRANSDUCER") connections are clear and tight (Top of ventilator).
  - d. Verify the "GAS OUT" clear leaf valve is installed and seated (reseal if loose, replace if missing).
  - e. Inspect green high pressure oxygen hose for cracks, dry rot, threads, black O-ring (replace if damaged).

Connect the ventilator to a high-pressure oxygen source, turn on the oxygen tank and ensure no leaks are present. Turn off O<sub>2</sub> when complete (conduct in environment conducive to hearing leaks).

2. Power On Checks
  - a. Turn "MODE" (knob 1) to desired setting (AC, SIMV, CPAP). The ventilator will run a SELF-TEST upon set up (ventilator circuit should be disconnected). At this point, (CAL) is not required. If SELF-TEST results in a Calibration Failure, place (1) to CAL until CAL OK is displayed. If the calibration fails, the ventilator must be taken out of service.
  - b. Check BATT OK
  - c. Preset ventilator knobs to:
    - Rate (knob 2) 14
    - Inspiration Time (knob 3) 1:2
    - TIDAL VOLUME: 6ml/kg IBW (4-8ml/kg IBW range)
  - \*QUICK REFERENCE (Male): (Detailed quick reference in [Appendix A](#))
    - 66" = ~380cc [min: 255 / max: 510]
    - 69" = ~420cc [min: 283 / max: 566]
    - 72" = ~465cc [min: 310 / max: 621]
    - 75" = ~505cc [min: 338 / max: 676]
  - FiO<sub>2</sub> (knob 5) 100%
  - Set HIGH pressure alarm to 35 cmH<sub>2</sub>O
  - Set LOW pressure to 15 cmH<sub>2</sub>O
  - d. Turn OFF.
  - e. Make sure the air inlet and gas out ports of the ventilator are protected and covered.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

***These procedures should be practiced before being performed on live patients.***

---

**NOTE:** Any known malfunction of the ventilator should be addressed prior to utilization. The following are not for routine use, but for emergencies when alternate ventilatory measures are not available and long term BVM is not practical.

---

**\*ALL CAUTIONS, WARNINGS, AND NOTIFICATIONS THAT CORRESPOND WITH THE 754 SCREEN WILL BE IN ALL CAPS\***

Inability to deliver high pressure O<sub>2</sub> when needs exceed 21% FiO<sub>2</sub> (i.e. missing/unserviceable green high pressure hose).

Vent will alarm and show **O2 Low/Fail-Check Oxygen Source/Connections** on screen.

---

**NOTE:** First place the patient on BVM with supplemental oxygen. Second, check oxygen tank volume. Third, check the oxygen lines and connections.

---

### Alternative methods to increase delivered oxygen content:

1. Oxygen reservoir kit for low pressure supply (Part # 820-0097-15).
2. Oxygen reservoir fashioned from primary circuit and BVM.
  - a. Connect short portion of main circuit tube to the BVM and to the air-inlet port.
  - b. Connect BVM oxygen hose to the BVM and regulator.
  - c. Set regulator to desired setting (~10LPM, but no lower than total minute volume).
3. Oxygen reservoir fashioned from second ventilator patient circuit.
  - a. Cut/disconnect exhalation valve off of second ventilator circuit.
  - b. Feed green transducer hose at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way down vent tubing (the goal is to get as close as possible to the air inlet port) and secure in place with tape (do not cover the end of the circuit).
  - c. Connect the 90 degree/"L" shape fitting of the green transducer line to the oxygen regulator.
  - d. Connect the opposite end of the vent tubing to the air inlet port.
  - e. Set regulator on oxygen source to 10 LPM to deliver up to 99% F<sub>i</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

### Missing or damaged "Gas Out" leaf valve

Missing **Gas Out** leaf valve will trigger an alarm, give a **DISCONNECT-CHECK CIRCUIT CONNECTIONS**, no **PEAK** value will display, and little to no volume will be delivered to the patient.

1. Place the patient on BVM with supplemental oxygen.
2. Perform DOPE (Dislodgment, Obstruction, Pneumothorax, and Equipment) assessment.
3. Check **Gas Out** clear plastic leaf valve for installation and proper seating.
  - If the valve is folded, use a small object to gently unfold or push the valve back into place.
  - If missing, cover exterior **Gas Out** side ports with occlusive dressing (replacing **Gas Out** leaf valve is optimal, but is time consuming.)

**WARNING:** Occluding “Gas Out” side ports will enable the ventilator to provide full respirations, however, this will eliminate the anti-asphyxia function these ports provide. (Ventilator failure will result in increased resistance in spontaneous respiration) and strict surveillance must be kept on ventilator to ensure any further failure is caught immediately. Patients must immediately be transitioned to BVM in the event of any failure.

**Compressor failure/alarms (may show CODE 2).**

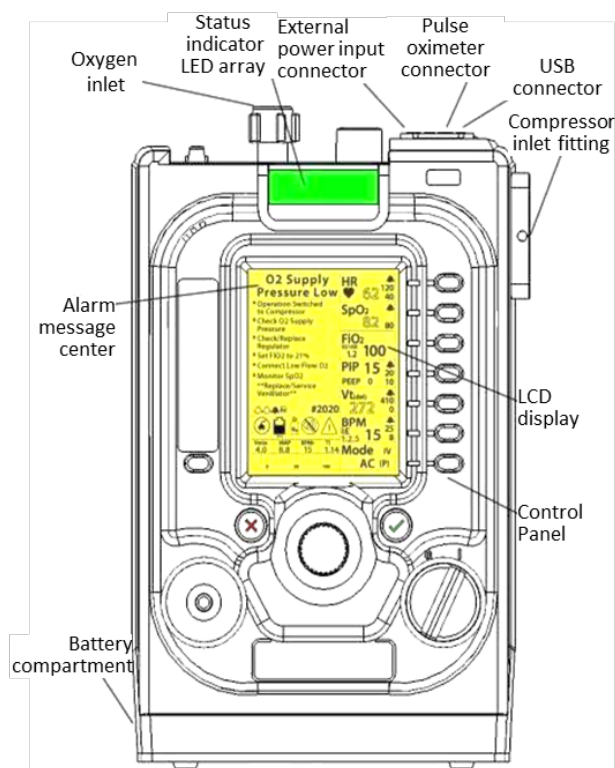
1. Place patient on BVM with supplemental O<sub>2</sub>.
2. Cycle ventilator to OFF.
3. Turn FiO<sub>2</sub> (knob 5) to 100%.
4. Cycle back on and to desired settings. MUST leave FiO<sub>2</sub> at 100%. PEEP will have to be reset when the vent is cycled on.

**NOTE:** *This technique will transition the ventilator to using oxygen pressure instead of the compressor to gather drive ventilation and may hasten oxygen usage.*

**Battery Failure**

1. Place patient on BVM with supplemental O<sub>2</sub>.
2. Turn ventilator **OFF**.
3. Replace ventilator battery with battery from 326M suction apparatus (per the manufacturer, they are the exact same). The 326M battery is in the same location as the 754.
4. Resume normal operations. PEEP will have to be reset.

## APPENDIX C: ZOLL EMV+ (731 SERIES)



1. Turn on the ventilator and ensure that the machine is functional and the battery is charged.
2. Attach the ventilator tubing and O2 tubing to the machine.
3. If the patient is a transfer on a vent, maintain ventilator settings from the medical treatment facility.
4. If the patient is “newly” on the ventilator, initial settings should include:
  - a. MODE: AC
  - b. BPM/RRate: 14BPM (10-30 range)
  - c. TIDAL VOLUME: 6ml/kg IBW (4-8ml/kg IBW range)

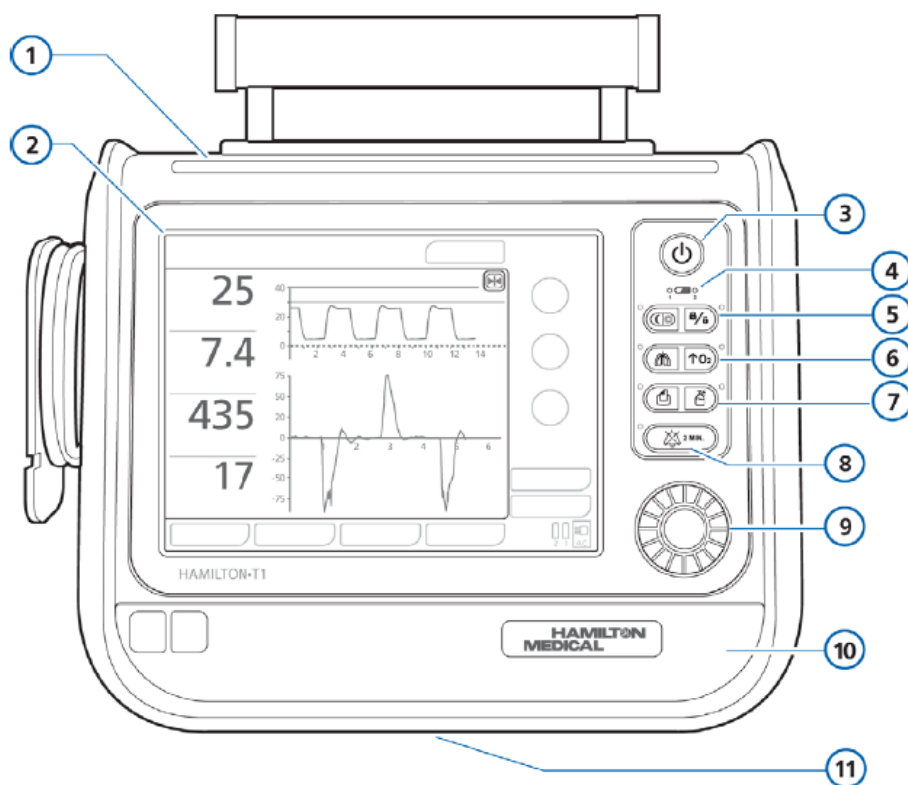
QUICK REFERENCE (Male): (Detailed quick reference in [Appendix A](#))

66" = ~380cc [min: 255 / max: 510]  
 69" = ~420cc [min: 283 / max: 566]  
 72" = ~465cc [min: 310 / max: 621]  
 75" = ~505cc [min: 338 / max: 676]

  - d. FiO<sub>2</sub> : 21 - 100% (0.21-1.0) (low flow O<sub>2</sub> @ 3 LPM = ~ 40% FiO<sub>2</sub> [flowrate on Saros oxygen concentrator])
  - e. I:E Ratio: 1:2
  - f. PEEP: 5 [Range 5-20]
5. Monitor waveform on the machine and visually inspect the patient to ensure no “breath stacking.” If this occurs, a high-pressure alarm may sound. However, if breath stacking is suspected even in the absence of alarm – disconnect tubing and allow exhalation and decrease the I:E if possible from 1:2 to 1:4.

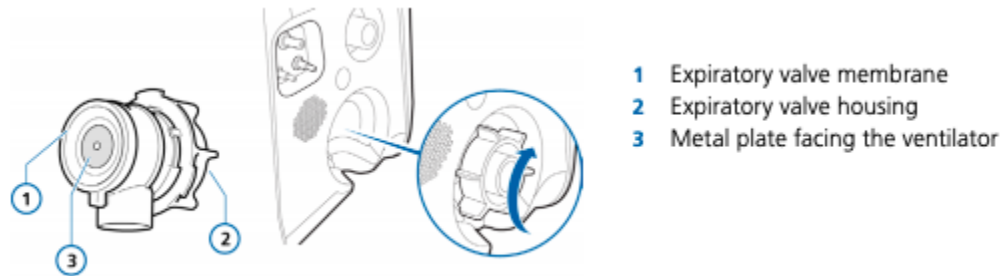


## APPENDIX D: HAMILTON T1

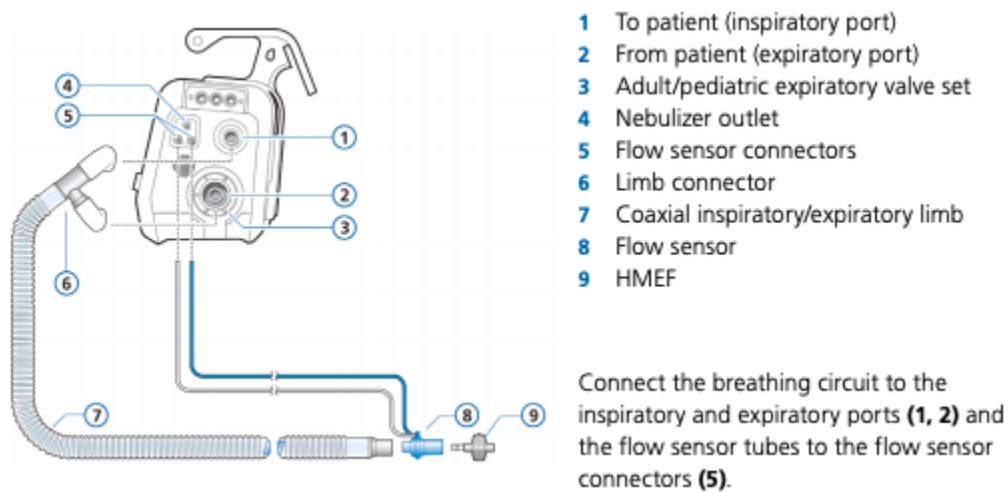


- 1 **Alarm lamp.** Red = high-priority alarm, yellow = medium- or low-priority alarm.
- 2 **Touch screen.** Provides access to measurements and controls.
- 3 **Power/Standby key.** Turns the ventilator on and off and accesses standby.
- 4 **Battery charge indicator.** Lit = battery is fully charged. Flashing = battery is charging.
- 5 **Day/Night key.** Switches between the Day and Night display brightness setting.
- 5 **Screen lock/unlock key.** Prevents inadvertent change of settings.
- 6 **Manual breath/inspiratory hold key.** Triggers a mandatory breath when pressed and released during exhalation. Triggers an inspiratory hold when held down during any breath phase. When active, the green indicator is lit.
- 6 **O2 enrichment key.** Delivers 100% oxygen for 2 min. Press the key a second time to cancel. Press **O2** key and disconnect patient to start a suctioning maneuver.
- 7 **Print screen key.** Save a JPG file of the current ventilator screen to a USB memory drive.
- 7 **Nebulizer on/off key.** Activates pneumatic nebulizer for 30 minutes or until pressed again during the inspiration phase if high-pressure oxygen (HPO) is connected.
- 8 **Alarm silence key.** Silences the main ventilator audible alarm for 2 min. Press the key a second time to cancel the alarm silence.
- 9 **Press-and-turn (P&T) knob.** Use to select and adjust ventilator settings.
- 10 **Front cover and battery.** The backup batteries are located inside the front cover.
- 11 **Underside of ventilator.** Expiratory valve bleed port. *Do not obstruct.*

1. Set up the ventilator.
  - a. Install expiratory valve.



- b. Connect coaxial breathing circuit



- c. Enable Hamilton T1, EtCO<sub>2</sub>, or Spo<sub>2</sub> add ons if capable.
2. Perform pre-operational checks.
  - a. Click **PreOp Checks** on main page.
  - b. Conduct Tightness Test.
  - c. Conduct Flow Sensor Test.

**\*\*Do not attach a patient to the ventilator without conducting both tests.\*\***
3. Select modes
  - a. Input patient Sex and Height (this calculates all alarm values and “normal” ranges.  
**Do not bypass this step**)
  - b. Touch **Modes** to change ventilator mode.
  - c. Select **ASV**.
4. Select settings
  - a. Set Tidal Volume (4-8 ml/kg IBW) or Pressure Support (not to exceed 30 mmHg).



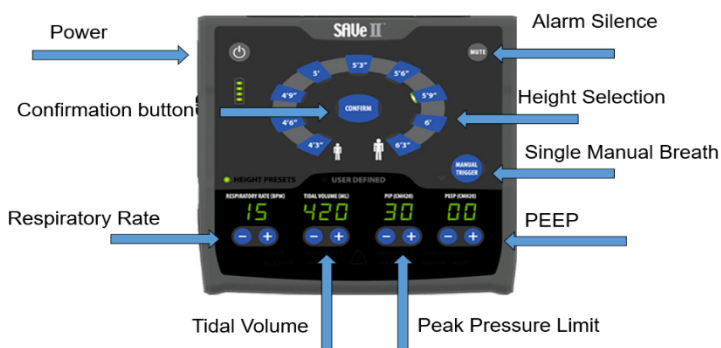
**NOTE:** This ventilator is “PEEP Compensated” which means when in Pressure Support mode if your Pressure Support is 20 and your PEEP is 10, your settings are actually 30 over 10. If you want 20 over 10, you need to see the Pressure Support at 10 and the PEEP at 10.

**\*\*This can get confusing, seek direction from medical control if necessary.\*\***

- b. Set appropriate rate for age group.
  - c. Set FiO<sub>2</sub> (21 to 100%).
  - d. Set PEEP (5 to 20).
  - e. Adjust I:E Ratio as necessary.
5. Set Flow Trigger (0.5 to 5). Press the start ventilation button prior to connecting patient.
  6. **Once the patient is on the ventilator, you may have to adjust alarm parameters**

## APPENDIX E: SAVE II

**NOTE:** The SAVe II is designed for use in place of a Bag Valve Mask (BVM) in the pre-hospital environment. The intended use is to provide ventilator support or Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV) to adults weighing >45kg (99lbs.).



1. Power on. The device will run through a self-test (all lights will illuminate, and will alarm for a moment).
2. Connect tubing: Tubing will only attach one way. Ensure any patient circuit is being attached on the light grey side of ports, as pictured above. Ensure all connections of the circuit are tight; loose connections may cause low pressure or disconnect alarm.
3. Select height and confirm (failure to select confirm will not change and or set appropriate settings). Any time a change is made, the CONFIRM button must be pressed. The device will default to a PEEP of 0; ensure adjustments are made IAW CPG or protocol.
4. Attach to airway device.
5. Confirm ventilations.
6. Adjust PEEP if needed by setting PEEP and hitting confirm.

**NOTE:** This device is intended for short term or transport use and is not intended to replace other ventilators available. Consider transitioning the patient to another ventilator (731, 754, or Hamilton T1) as soon as feasible.

---

**APPENDIX F: INFORMATION REGARDING OFF-LABEL USES IN CPGS**

---

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Appendix is to ensure an understanding of Department of Defense (DoD) policy and practice regarding inclusion in CPGs of “off-label” uses of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)–approved products. This applies to off-label uses with patients who are armed forces members.

**BACKGROUND**

Unapproved (i.e. “off-label”) uses of FDA-approved products are extremely common in American medicine and are usually not subject to any special regulations. However, under Federal law, in some circumstances, unapproved uses of approved drugs are subject to FDA regulations governing “investigational new drugs.” These circumstances include such uses as part of clinical trials, and in the military context, command required, unapproved uses. Some command requested unapproved uses may also be subject to special regulations.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING OFF-LABEL USES IN CPGS**

The inclusion of off-label uses in CPGs is not a clinical trial, nor is it a command request or requirement. Further, it does not imply that the Military Health System requires that use by DoD health care practitioners or considers it to be the “standard of care.” Rather, the inclusion of off-label uses in CPGs is to inform the clinical judgment of the responsible health care practitioner by providing information regarding potential risks and benefits of treatment alternatives. The decision is for the clinical judgment of the responsible health care practitioner within the practitioner-patient relationship.

**ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES****Balanced Discussion**

Consistent with this purpose, CPG discussions of off-label uses specifically state that they are uses not approved by the FDA. Further, such discussions are balanced in the presentation of appropriate clinical study data, including any such data that suggest caution in the use of the product and specifically including any FDA-issued warnings.

**Quality Assurance Monitoring**

With respect to such off-label uses, the DoD procedure is to maintain a regular system of quality assurance monitoring of outcomes and known potential adverse events. For this reason, the importance of accurate clinical records is underscored.

**Information to Patients**

Good clinical practice includes the provision of appropriate information to patients. Each CPG discussing an unusual off-label use will address the issue of information to patients. When practicable, consideration will be given to including in an appendix an appropriate information sheet for distribution to patients, whether before or after use of the product. Information to patients should address in plain language: a) that the use is not approved by the FDA; b) the reasons why a DoD health care practitioner would decide to use the product for this purpose; and c) the potential risks associated with such use.