

Acute infant CPAP competency

North Thames Paediatric Network & East of England Paediatric Critical Care Network

This competency is designed to be used by supervisors* for staff who are experienced and proficient in the care of children requiring CPAP, and for whom no previous evidence of competence exists. Staff who are less experienced, or new to nursing children who require CPAP should complete the CPAP workbook and be supervised in practice until ready to be signed as competent by the supervisor.

	Skill descriptor	Sign staff member	Sign supervisor
Knowledge			
Anatomy & Physiology	Can describe the physiological changes that indicate a patient may benefit from CPAP Can describe how CPAP supports respiration & the physiological benefits.		
Indication	Understands the indications for CPAP, the contra indications and limitations of CPAP		
Response	Can describe the signs of response to treatment, and failure to respond to treatment. Can outline the red flags associated with respiratory failure and CPAP therapy		
Transfers	Is able to safely transfer a baby who requires CPAP in line with the clinical guideline, individual patient and local considerations		
Clinical skills			
Set up & interface	Aware of all safety considerations. Can set up, calibrate the device, and prepare for use. (including humidifier where required) Can measure and select the correct interface and appropriate fixation.		
Adjustment	Can adjust settings on the device to alter therapy		

Trouble shooting	Can efficiently troubleshoot alarms associated with CPAP therapy. Can troubleshoot patient complications that may hinder CPAP delivery		
Nursing care	Can maintain a safe environment. Is able to consistently and accurately carry out all nursing observations and all documentation for a child on CPAP. Can rationalise the need to cluster cares and for minimal handling Can meet the hydration / nutritional needs of a child on CPAP.		
Discontinuing therapy	Able to identify when a patient may no longer require CPAP. Aware of observations required when CPAP has been discontinued		
Knowledge application			
Identification	Can recognise a patient that might benefit from CPAP and alert appropriate staff, contribute to MDT discussion for management plan.		
Optimise therapy	Able to utilise knowledge and skills to ensure effective and safe delivery of CPAP		
Escalation	Can recognise and respond appropriately and timely to a deteriorating patient, or a patient who does not respond to treatment, and documents correctly. Understands when CPAP may represent the ceiling of care for a child and can support the family appropriately.		
Care of family	Can respond to the needs of a family whose child is unwell, requiring CPAP, and manage their expectations of the therapy.		

Final sign off	Name in full	Signature	Position	Date
Staff				
Supervisor				

*A supervisor is an expert practitioner and is usually the Practice Development Nurse or somebody assigned by them.