



*Oakland County Medical Control Authority*  
**System Protocols**  
**INTER-FACILITY PATIENT TRANSFERS ADDENDUM HFNO**  
**(Optional)**

Date: 01/21/2021

Section 8.19.1

***Inter-Facility Patient Transfers Addendum for High Flow Nasal Oxygen***  
***(Optional)***

- I. Indications
  - A. Order from sending facility/physician
  - B. Hypoxic respiratory failure, from COVID-19 or other respiratory process
  
- II. Contraindications
  - A. Inability to provide continuous, heated humidification using an approved delivery device
  - B. Inability to provide therapy through appropriately sized nasal prongs
  - C. Insufficient supply of oxygen to complete the transport
  
- III. Procedure
  - A. Ensure that an adequate supply of oxygen is available for the transport.
    - i. Calculate the amount of oxygen needed prior to departure.
    - ii. Ensure that you have at least two times the amount of oxygen anticipated.
  - B. Perform appropriate patient assessment, including obtaining vital signs, pulse oximeter reading, cardiac rhythm, and current device settings
  - C. Set FiO<sub>2</sub> to maintain SpO<sub>2</sub> at or above 94% (or to patient's baseline oxygen saturation, if known). Utilize facility settings as starting point, if available.
  - D. Set flow rate in liters per minute (L/min) to decrease work of breathing.
    - i. Utilize facility settings as starting point, if available.
    - ii. Flow calculation: 2 L/kg/min up to the first 12 kg, plus 0.5 L/kg/min for each kg thereafter, up to a maximum flow rate of 60 L/min.
  - E. Reassess vitals, work of breathing, mental status, and breath sounds. Reassessment should be continuous, but documentation of vitals must occur at least every five minutes throughout patient contact.
  - F. Consider the need for escalation of respiratory support if patient remains in respiratory failure on more than 2 L/kg/min of flow or maximum settings for the delivery device.
  - G. If patient deterioration occurs, terminate HFNO and begin positive pressure respiratory support via CPAP, BIPAP, BVM, or intubation, if necessary.
  
- IV. Notes

For suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients, personnel must don respirators, eye protection, gowns, and gloves for transport.