

Mass Casualty Ventilation

for Non-Respiratory Medical Personnel

A part of the Wisconsin Surge Capacity Plan for Ventilation of Critically Ill Patients

Wisconsin's Surge Capacity Plan Wisconsin's Ventilator Surge Capacity Plan has been put in place so the state can effectively manage surge incidents. Surge incidents are caused by an internal or external hazard that require medical services which exceed the resources of Intensive Care Units (ICU) and their equipment, especially ventilators. The plan provides for the care of critically ill patients, especially those on ventilators. The Surge Capacity Plan also addresses catastrophic incidents that may cause ICUs and their equipment to be closed down or inoperable, creating the need for a back-up plan for the care of critically ill patients on ventilators.

Hospitals maintain a sufficient number of ventilators, supplies, and support equipment for current demand. In the case of a surge capacity incident, however, hospitals could find themselves unprepared for the increased demand for ventilators and the need for personnel to maintain them. The Ventilator Surge Capacity Plan includes the purchase of as many as 300+ ventilators to be pre-positioned in hospitals throughout the state. The plan includes training respiratory therapists in the use of the ventilators selected. The plan also calls for the training of non-respiratory personnel (nurses, physicians and EMS personnel) who may care for patients on these ventilators and those who may need to be trained to assist respiratory therapists in the event of a surge incident. The term "RT Extenders" is used to describe those who would assist therapists. The ventilators selected by the state expert panel are:

● **LTV 1200** (Pulmonetic Systems)

● **I Vent** (Versa Med)



Training and Preparation of Non-Respiratory Medical Personnel

Wisconsin's Technical Colleges offering the respiratory therapist program will provide training for all graduating therapists beginning with the class of 2008. Education and training for Wisconsin licensed therapists is already underway, and nearly completed. Training for non-respiratory medical personnel is now being offered. The training is intended to increase the familiarity with the procedures and ventilators presented as a first step in assisting non-respiratory medical personnel working with these ventilators.

Western Technical College in La Crosse, Wisconsin, is providing the ventilator training specific to non-respiratory personnel. The training is offered online, including learning and testing. This training program is a self-paced a la carte training program that allows learners to pick and choose topics that are important to them. Hospitals, clinics, and other agencies are responsible for ensuring that all therapists and non-respiratory personnel maintain competency. Topics in the training include:

Welcome Message
The iVent Ventilator
The LTV 1200 Ventilator
Non-invasive Ventilation - BiPAP 101
Manual Ventilation
Ventilator Circuits and Troubleshooting
Basics of Mechanical Ventilation
Monitoring the Ventilator Patient

Oxygen Conservation Guidelines
Wisconsin Ventilator Triage Protocols
The Respiratory Therapy Extender
Medications Delivered Via Ventilators
The ABC's of ABG's (Arterial Blood Gases)
Open-system Endotracheal Suctioning
Closed-system Endotracheal Suctioning
Infection Control

These topics represent basic skills. Performance of these skills would be determined by individual hospital and clinic policies and procedures. Competence assessment will also be the responsibility of the health institution.

Training Costs

There is no charge to non-respiratory medical personnel in Wisconsin completing this training. Western will approve all applicants for training following the guidelines established by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health.

Agencies desiring to use this training for competency assessment can contact Western's Business and Industry Services division at **608.785.9232** or **bis@westerntc.edu** to arrange test monitoring and certificate generation.

Registration and Competency Testing

Register for: **Mass Casualty Ventilation Training** online at:
westerntc.edu/mcvnrp

- Complete the online registration form
- You will then be directed to the training page. *Click on* and view any of the presentations included in the training.
- Complete the quizzes for any presentation to test your knowledge.