



VENT WEANING PROGRAM

The Whittier Ventilator Weaning Program serves patients who have experienced respiratory failure following the onset of one or more disease entities such as:

- Acquired multiple system failure: Traumatic, vascular, infectious, neoplastic and surgically induced pathology
- Disease of the Central Nervous System (Brain or Spinal Cord)
- Myopathy and Muscular Dystrophy
- Other nerve or muscle disease
- Chest Wall Deformity (e.g., Kyphoscoliosis)
- Central Hypoventilation Syndromes
- Restrictive Lung Disease (e.g., Diffuse Pulmonary Fibrosis)
- Obstructive Lung Disease (Bronchitis, Emphysema, Cystic Fibrosis)

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To provide goal-oriented, comprehensive inpatient restorative ventilator dependent patient management.
- To minimize the patient's reliance on mechanical ventilation thereby maximizing "ventilator free time."
- When complete weaning is not physiologically possible, our primary goal is to provide a mode of ventilation that is conducive to long term management and independence in the least restrictive environment for both patient and family.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Dedicated VWP inter-disciplinary team including:

- Pulmonary Physician
- Internist
- Physiatrist
- Respiratory Care Practitioners (24 hour Respiratory Therapy Coverage)
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Certified Rehabilitation Nurses
- Nutritionist

- Psychologist
- Psychiatrist
- Clinical Social Worker
- Case Manager

State of the art biomedical technology including:

- Computerized ventilators with pre-programmed special weaning modes.
- Portable ventilators to promote patient mobility.
- Non-invasive ventilation techniques including volume and pressure cycled

equipment.

- Environmental control systems with a variety of patient activated switching devices.
- Specialized mechanical devices to promote airway clearance and reverse or prevent atelectasis including Intra-pulmonary Percussive Ventilation (IPV) and In-exsufflator (Coughlator).
- Cardiac Telemetry.

PATIENT, FAMILY AND CAREGIVER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Individualized education in a variety of environments including:

- Apartment simulator
- Community simulator (The Whittier Way)
- Patient's residence
- Long term care discharge venue if required

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Dependence on invasive or non-invasive mechanical ventilation.
- Tracheostomy tube in place for patients receiving invasive ventilation support.
- Secure feeding route such as gastrostomy tube in place.
- Hemodynamic stability as defined by program medical director on a case by case basis.
- Long term care discharge venue if required

PRE-ADMISSION PROCESS

- Age 16 or older.
- Referral by physician, social worker, case manager or discharge planner.
- Comprehensive evaluation by admissions liaison.
- Family members are encouraged to visit Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital to meet staff and become familiar with facility prior to admission.

REFERRALS PLEASE CALL (800) 442-1717



76 Summer Street • Haverhill, MA 01830 • (978) 372-8000
150 Flanders Road • Westborough, MA 01581 • (508) 870-2222

