

CDC ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee
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Presenter:
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Ventilator Status and Weaning

- Proposal to create a new ICD-10-CM codes for ventilator status and weaning
- Patients who have life-threatening conditions may be put on invasive mechanical ventilators and will require constant monitoring and comprehensive care
- The patients on mechanical ventilators will usually be admitted to a hospital critical care or intensive care unit (ICU)
- “Critical care is defined as the direct delivery by a physician(s) medical care for a critically ill or critically injured patient. A critical illness or injury acutely impairs one or more vital organ systems such that there is a high probability of imminent or life-threatening deterioration in the patient’s condition.”
- It is necessary to document a complete clinical picture for the patient and cognitive work effort by the physician to support and to communicate the medical necessity for this high-level of hospital service.

Mechanical Ventilator Status

Mechanical ventilation is necessary to sustain life in acute settings¹ and is an essential, life-saving therapy for patients with critical illness and respiratory failure.² Mechanical ventilation keeps airways open, delivers oxygen and removes carbon dioxide . The primary indications for invasive mechanical ventilation are airway protection or obstruction, hypoventilation due to inability to exchange gases, and hypoxemic respiratory failure due to increased demand from critical illness.¹ It is used for patients who cannot breathe on their own or when their spontaneous breathing is inadequate to maintain life.

Documentation is necessary not only to capture the complete clinical picture, but also crucial to supporting communication between members of the care team.

“Managing a patient on mechanical ventilation requires an interprofessional team involving clinicians, nurses, and respiratory therapists. Good communication among team members is paramount.” -

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK539742>.

1. Sean M. Hickey; Al O. Giwa. StatPearls [Internet]. StatPearls Publishing; Treasure Island (FL): January 26, 2023. Mechanical Ventilation.
2. CDC. National Healthcare Safety Network [Internet]. January 2024. Ventilator-Associated Event.

Mechanical Ventilator Status

- When a critically ill patient is admitted to an ICU/CCU, it is important that the documentation clearly depicts the clinical acuity of the patient for which the physician is caring.
- Patients on mechanical ventilation is an indicator for the need for critical care
- The management of care is more complex when the patient in on mechanical ventilation
- When a patient is intubated and put on mechanical ventilation, they are at risk for ventilator associated complications (e.g., ventilator-associated pneumonia, barotrauma, other complications associated with endotracheal tube placement, adverse consequences related to sedation etc).
- They are closely monitored and managed as well as receiving ventilator assistance and planning for trials of weaning

Weaning from Mechanical Ventilation

“The term "weaning" is used to describe the gradual process of decreasing ventilator support. It is estimated that 40% of the duration of mechanical ventilation is dedicated to the process of weaning. Spontaneous breathing trial (SBT) assesses the patient's ability to breathe while receiving minimal or no ventilator support. The collective task force in 2001 stated that the process of SBT and weaning should start by assessing whether the underlying cause of respiratory failure has been resolved or not. Weaning predictors are parameters that are intended to help clinicians predict whether weaning attempts will be successful or not.”

References

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