

AARC Guidelines for Acquisition of Ventilators to Meet Demands for Pandemic Flu and Mass Casualty Incidents

The Newport HT50[®] Ventilator Meets These Guidelines

The AARC (American Association of Respiratory Care) recently released the “AARC Guidelines for Acquisition of Ventilators to Meet Demands for Pandemic Flu and Mass Casualty Incidents” (go to www.aarc.org for complete document). The Newport HT50[®] Ventilator meets or exceeds these guidelines. Following is a brief synopsis of some of their recommendations for qualities of ideal ventilators for these cases:

“Ventilators must be easy to use.”

The HT50 controls are straightforward and easy to understand with no hidden menus to remember. It is very intuitive and can be operated without extensive training.

“Ventilators must have adequate alarms to include loss of power (gas and/or electricity), low pressure, high pressure and disconnect.”

The HT50 incorporates these alarms and clearly identifies the alarms for ease of responding to the situation. While an alarm is active, an audible alarm, a flashing LED and a text message alerts the caregiver to the problem.

“Oxygen consumption of the ventilator must be limited.”

The HT50 does not waste oxygen in powering the ventilator or venting oxygen off before it reaches the patient as is the case with gas driven ventilators or turbine driven ventilators.

“Adequate supplies of ventilator circuits . . . must be readily available”

The HT50 can use standard disposable circuits available from hospital suppliers. While Newport keeps a large inventory on hand, circuits that work with the HT50 can be obtained from other sources.

“Ventilators capable of operating from compressed gas and a variety of electrical sources are preferred.”

The HT50 incorporates an internal compressor and has no need for external gas sources. The HT50 operates from any external power source - from 12 VDC-30 VDC and from 90 VAC-260 VAC with 50 Hz, 60 Hz or 400 HZ. The internal battery operates the unit up to 10 hours under nominal settings when fully charged.

“Infants and children will also be victims, so ventilators should be capable of ventilating pediatric patients.”

The HT50 has a long history of successfully ventilating patients \geq 10kg infant through adult.

“Minimal maintenance.”

The HT50 requires that the unit be charged up at least every 6 months to preserve the internal battery.

“Operate 4-6 hours when electric and gas supplies are unavailable.”

The HT50 can operate up to 10 hours from the internal battery. It uses minimal current to operate and so can run for extended times with an external battery.

“Ventilation of acute respiratory failure will require, at a minimum, the ability to control tidal volume, respiratory rate, inspired oxygen concentration, and positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP).”

The HT50 includes all of these with straightforward, easy to understand controls.