

## COVID-19: Recommendations for the Use of CPAP or BiPAP Therapy for Inpatients

### In whom is it appropriate to initiate CPAP during hospitalization?

CPAP therapy may be considered necessary therapy in the setting of severe obstructive sleep apnea with decompensated heart failure and/or severe pulmonary hypertension.

In all other patients with obstructive sleep apnea, CPAP therapy should be on hold during the hospitalization, unless the patient is swab negative and has intolerable symptoms without the CPAP

### In whom is it appropriate to initiate BiPAP during hospitalization?

Acute (or decompensated chronic) respiratory failure due to ALS, other neuromuscular disease or spinal cord injury  
Acute (or decompensated chronic) respiratory failure due to obesity hypoventilation syndrome and/or thoracic cage deformities

### For Patients with Pre-existing conditions for which CPAP or BiPAP has been prescribed chronically:

For obstructive sleep apnea on CPAP:

- COVID status unknown – avoid use of CPAP pending result unless decompensated heart failure or severe pulmonary hypertension
- COVID status Positive– avoid use of CPAP unless decompensated heart failure or severe pulmonary hypertension
- COVID status negative – avoid use of CPAP unless decompensated heart failure, severe pulmonary hypertension or intolerable symptoms without it

For patients on home BiPAP who have stable PCO<sub>2</sub> and normal pH (i.e., in compensated resp failure):

- COVID status unknown – await COVID swab result prior to instituting BiPAP
- COVID status Positive – avoid use of BiPAP in short term due to risk of aerosolization
- COVID status negative – use BiPAP at night

### How to proceed with CPAP or BiPAP:

**Swab for COVID-19: For BiPAP initiation:** If negative, empirically titrate with AVAPs BiPAP without humidification and use HME filter in line and in an IMCU setting. For Chronic BiPAP or CPAP users: If negative, set up home devices in their allotted hospital setting without humidification and with HME filter in line.

**IF COVID-19 swab result unknown or COVID positive** – place patient in negative pressure room with care providers using full PPE including N95 mask as CPAP and BiPAP are aerosolizing mechanical therapies. BiPAP and CPAP should be used without humidification and with HME filter.

### RESOURCES:

Consult Respiriology Service to assist with BiPAP settings.

Sleep technologists for mask fittings if RT unable to source proper fitting mask and for data download.