



Ventilator Considerations

Guidance for EMS providers called to care for patient on a ventilator

EMT-Basic

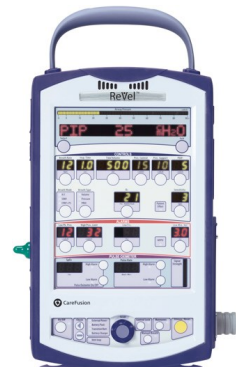
Advanced EMT

Paramedic

PROCEDURE

- Assess patient for chief complaint
- If unrelated to ventilator performance, continue with care per appropriate practice guideline
- Identify a trained caregiver on scene to consult for device settings, alarms, and portability
- Consult trained caregiver for device-related issues or alarms
 - Ensure ventilator is connected to power source
 - Inspect tubing for kinks or obstruction
 - If oxygen is used with ventilator, check that oxygen source has adequate volume
- Document ventilator settings on display or dials as well as message/readout of any alarm
- If unable to mitigate ventilator issue or unsure how to proceed, disconnect ventilator from patient and assist ventilations with BVM connected to high flow oxygen***
- Transport patient with ventilator, tubing, power cord and batteries
 - Always bring patient emergency bag and include extra tracheotomy supplies if applicable
- Utilize all available monitoring during transport (SPO2, EtCO2, ECG, etc)

REFERENCE GRAPHICS



KEY POINTS

- All ventilators are different - use patient caregivers and family on scene for information on troubleshooting
- Providers should disconnect the ventilator and implement manual ventilation if there is *any* uncertainty about ventilator efficacy

Medical Director: Ben Weston, MD, MPH

Date: April 2022