

## **Pre-Hospital Ventilator Management Competency**

It is the position of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) that all persons involved in the setup, initiation, application, and maintenance of mechanical ventilators in the pre-hospital setting be formally trained in both the clinical and disease-specific applications of mechanical ventilation. To meet the goals of mechanical ventilation and promote positive outcomes, pre-hospital caregivers must be trained to understand age-specific applications of positive airway pressure and its effect on the cardiopulmonary system. This includes basic operating principles of mechanical ventilation, the mechanisms available for monitoring the patient-ventilator system, and their interactions. The pre-hospital provider must also be familiar with the proper assessment of the airway, indication for changes in the settings on a mechanical ventilator, and the physiologic ramifications of those changes to the patient.

The AARC promotes the use of standardized terminology to promote understanding of the applications and pre-hospital management of mechanical ventilators. Furthermore, the AARC recommends that all pre-hospital providers of mechanical ventilation be required to demonstrate competence, at regular intervals, in the use and manipulation of all mechanical ventilators used during the transport of sick and injured patients.

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