Purpose of Project

• To recommend best practice for home mechanical ventilation in those with chronic neuromuscular disorders including those with spinal cord injury.
Process

Respirologists (from across Canada), a nurse, an ethicist and a physiatrist plus a methodologist had several face to face meetings and multiple teleconferences over a 2 year period.

Under the aegis of the Canadian Thoracic Society, Clinical Practice Guideline Committee we followed the GRADE system for evaluating the literature.

A literature search of the available data found evidence to allow us to make recommendations regarding the management of SCI patients on Long Term Ventilation at home: HMV.
Outcomes

• Recommendations:
• Protocols for PVFB for suitable patients with tetraplegia. (Grade 1C)
• Each patient needs evaluation for ventilatory support. NIV favored over IV. (Grade 1C)
• Phrenic or DPS in selected patients. (Grade 1C)
• Airway clearance mechanisms: LVR, MAC, MI-E. (Grade 1C)
• Regular monitoring re SDB or Hypoventilation. (Grade 1C)
Knowledge Translation Plans

• Dissemination and implementation to care givers and HCP.
• Care gaps to be established across Canada
• Address care gaps.
• Publication in Canadian Respiratory Journal July/Aug 2011.
• www.respiratoryguidelines.ca/guideline/home-ventilation.
Team

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