Let's Talk About ...

Patient safety: VAP bundle

Dear parents,

Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) is an infection that can happen in the hospital and make your child's hospital stay longer. To reduce the chances your child will get this infection, the hospital staff will do certain things together each day. This is called a VAP bundle.

Please support the hospital staff when they do the following things to protect your child:

- 1 The hospital staff will evaluate your child's sedation every day.
 - Healthcare providers will assess how sleepy your child is from sedation medicines. This tells them whether your child is awake enough to breathe on their own when they're ready to have the breathing tube removed.
- 2 The hospital staff will discuss if your child still needs the ventilator every day.

The healthcare providers want to remove the ventilator and breathing tube as soon as possible to decrease your child's chance of getting VAP.

3 The hospital staff will make sure the head of your child's bed is raised up.

When your child is sick, their saliva (spit) or stomach contents could get into the lungs and cause pneumonia. Raising the head of your child's bed helps to prevent this.

4 The hospital staff will give your child mouth care every 4 hours.

Frequent mouth care decreases bacteria in the saliva (spit).

5 The hospital staff will suction your child's mouth before they turn your child.

Saliva (spit) that pools in the back of the throat can get into the lungs and cause pneumonia. Suctioning removes the saliva and prevents this.

Thank you for helping us provide excellent care for your child while in the hospital.

Sincerely,

Your child's healthcare team

Notes			

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