



Japan Council for Quality Health Care

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/
Adverse Event Information

Medical Safety Information

No.37, December 2009

Failure to release "standby" mode when resuming ventilation

Four cases where ventilation was not carried out because ventilator attached to a patient was in "standby" mode have been reported (information collection period: from January 1, 2006 to October 30, 2009; the information is partly included in "Individual Theme Review" in the 18th Quarterly Report).

**Mechanical ventilation is not
carried out in "standby" mode.**

"Standby" mode

is a function of ventilators to set up an appropriate ventilation conditions and to confirm the alarm function before attaching respiratory circuit to the patient and starting operation. In this condition, mechanical ventilation is not carried out for a patient. The displayed mode name varies depending on ventilator model such names as "standby," "standby mode," "standby function," etc.

- ◆ Many ventilators currently sold are equipped with a "standby," "standby mode," and "standby function." For specifications of individual devices, please check instruction manuals, etc.

Failure to release "standby" mode when resuming ventilation

Case 1

The patient was connected to a ventilator (Servo-i) to support spontaneous breathing. The nurse A switched the mode of the ventilator from "on" to "standby" in order to change the patient's body position, and changed the position with the nurse B. Then, the nurse A left the patient room without switching the mode of the ventilator from "standby" to "on." After a while, the nurse A returned to the patient room and noticed that the mechanical ventilation was not being carried out.

Case 2

The patient temporarily removed the ventilator (Servo-i Universal) to go to a toilet, and switched to nasal oxygen administration. At the time, the nurse C turned the ventilator mode to "standby." When the patient returned, the nurse D performed sputum suction for the patient, and attached the ventilator. At that time, the nurse D forgot to switch the mode of the ventilator from "standby" to "on."

Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred.

When attaching a ventilator to a patient after using a function such as "standby," mode, check the mechanical ventilation after pressing a start button.

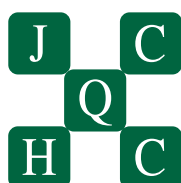
Complementary comment by the Comprehensive Evaluation Panel

While attaching a ventilator, confirm patient's appropriate ventilation by observing chest wall movement.

* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See quarterly reports and annual reports posted on the Japan Council for Quality Health Care website for details of the Project. <http://www.med-safe.jp/>

* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but can not be guaranteed in the future.

* This information is neither for limiting the discretion of healthcare providers nor for imposing certain obligations or responsibilities on them.



**Division of Adverse Event Prevention
Japan Council for Quality Health Care**

1-4-17 Misakicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0061 JAPAN
Direct Tel: +81-3-5217-0252 Direct Fax: +81-3-5217-0253
<http://www.jcqhc.or.jp/>