Connecticut Valley Hospital Nursing Policy and Procedure	**SECTION D: PSYCHOLOGICAL ADAPTATION** **CHAPTER 13: BASIC NEEDS** **POLICY AND PROCEDURE 13.6a Emergency Oxygen Administration**
Authorization: Nursing Executive Committee	Date Effective: May 1, 2018 Scope: Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses

Standard of Practice:
The licensed nurse will administer oxygen when an insufficient amount is available to blood, organs, or tissue.

Standard of Care:
The patient can expect to receive oxygen as needed in a safe manner by licensed nursing staff.

Policy:
Oxygen is administered by licensed nursing staff to patients requiring oxygen therapy. The need for oxygen in an emergency may be assessed and initiated by licensed nursing staff.

Procedure for Emergency/Short-Term Oxygen Therapy:

- Bring the Emergency Cart with O_2 to the scene.
- Turn O_2 on and check cylinder gauge for amount of oxygen.
- If patient is cyanotic, set liter flow at 15 liters per minute with non-rebreather mask, be sure it is inflated, then apply immediately to patient, maintain at 15 liters per minute until ambulance arrives on the scene.
- If patient is not cyanotic, obtain baseline vital signs and O_2 saturation level prior to starting O_2.
- Set liter flow at **6 liters per minute** with facial mask, or nasal cannula non-breather mask.
- Attach facial mask or nasal cannula to flow meter.
- Explain procedure to patient while placing in position of comfort.
- Turn gauge on and run for a few seconds.
- Place on patient and adjust for proper fit.
- Titrate oxygen flow rate upwards as necessary to maintain oxygen saturation greater than 90%.
- Continue to monitor vital signs and O_2 saturation every five minutes until ambulance arrives.

Documentation should include baseline vital signs and O_2 saturation, time O_2 was initiated, method of administration, flow rate, indication for use and patient response, and ongoing vital signs prior to the ambulance arrival.

A person with respirations less than 10 or greater than 24 may be in respiratory distress and may require respiratory assistance.