General Procedure

Subject: Temperature Management with the Bair Hugger® System

Purpose:

The Bair Hugger® Temperature Management system is a convective warming therapy which transfers heat to patients by blowing warm air through micro-perforations on the underside of a plastic and tissue paper blanket which is placed on the patient. The system is intended to prevent and treat hypothermia. In addition, the temperature management system can be used to provide patient thermal comfort when conditions exist that may cause a patient to become too cold.

Policy Statement:

1. A practitioner’s order is required for the use of the Bair Hugger® system and for the temperature set point for the blanket and the patient. Exception: Interventional Radiology, Emergency Department and OR where the practitioner ordering the Bair Hugger® is the same person implementing and managing the therapy.
2. Use caution in use of the ‘high’ setting in patients with low cardiac output, vascular disease, or poor or marginal cutaneous perfusion, and in immobilized patients. Do not use maximum temperature settings for patients who require warming for an uninterrupted, extended period of time.
3. Use the Bair Hugger® temperature management system ONLY with Bair Hugger blankets or Bair Paws gowns. Avoid the concomitant use of two blankets on the same patient as this could result in cutaneous thermal injury.
4. The patient’s temperature, condition of skin in contact with the blanket (when feasible), and the blanket temperature must be monitored and recorded at least every 15 minutes until the desired temperature is reached. Continue to monitor and record the patient’s temperature every 20 minutes thereafter while on Bair Hugger therapy. Do not leave patients with poor perfusion unmonitored during warming therapy; thermal injury may result.
5. Discontinue therapy when the therapeutic goal is reached.
6. 
7. Do not warm patients with the temperature management unit hose alone. Thermal injury may result. Always connect the hose to a Bair Hugger blanket or Bair Paws gown before providing therapy.
8. Do not allow the patient to lie on the warming unit hose or allow the hose to directly contact the patient’s skin during patient warming; thermal injury may result.
9. Do not use a forced-air warming device over transdermal medication. Increased drug delivery and patient injury or death may occur.

Approved:
Richard J. Brilli, MD, Chief Medical Officer
Linda Stoverock, RN, MSN, NE BC
Chief Nursing Officer
SUBJECT: Temperature Management with the Bair Hugger® System

10. Do not apply heat to lower extremities during aortic cross-clamping. Thermal injury may occur if heat is applied to ischemic limbs.

EQUIPMENT:

Bair Hugger® Temperature Management unit with hose
Bair Hugger® blanket or Bair Paws gown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Points to Remember</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Identify the patient and explain procedure to patient/parent/guardian.</td>
<td>Injury may result with a unit not placed on a hard surface or securely mounted. If mounting the unit to an IV pole, clamp the unit no higher than 44 inches from the floor and on an IV pole with a minimum 28 inch diameter wheelbase. Failure to do so may result in IV pole tipping and patient injury.</td>
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<td>2. Assure that the temperature management unit is safely placed on a hard surface or securely mounted to a bedrail or IV pole prior to initiating therapy.</td>
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<td>3. Place the blanket or gown on the patient with the perforated side (the side with the small holes) against the patient’s skin.</td>
<td>Do not place the non-perforated side of the blanket on the patient. Thermal injury may result. Except for specific blanket models, Bair Hugger blankets are not sterile and are all intended for single patient use only.</td>
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<td>4. Insert the hose of the temperature management unit in the hose port on the blanket or gown. Use a twisting motion to ensure a snug fit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Press the system ON/OFF button to turn the unit ON and select the appropriate temperature setting.</td>
<td>Air temperatures reaching the patient are approximately 2ºC lower than the listed temperatures. Average temperature at the end of the hose:</td>
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| If the over-temp indicator light illuminates and the alarm sounds, remove the Bair Hugger® unit from service and contact Biomed. Thermal injury may result if the unit is used in over-temp mode. | HIGH: 43º ± 3ºC 109.4ºF ± 5.4ºF  
MED: 38º ± 3ºC 100.4ºF ± 5.4ºF  
LOW: 32º ± 3ºC 89.6ºF ± 5.4ºF |
| 6. You may place a cotton blanket over the Bair Hugger® blanket or gown for maximum effectiveness. |                                                                                                         |
| 7. Document: the type of blanket used, the location of the blanket on the patient, the Bair Hugger® settings upon initiation of therapy and any time changes are made in any of these parameters. | If the Bair Hugger device adversely affects the patient and/or malfunctions, corrective action will taken in accordance with Patient/Family Care Policy XI-15:20 Event Reporting: Medical Device Incident Reporting. |
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References:

Bair Hugger Model 505 Temperature Management Unit Operator’s Manual

