



Team Name: Surgical Team Team Lead: Regional Director of Acute Care Approved by: Executive Director – Mid	Reference Number: CLI.6611.SG.001 Program Area: Perioperative Policy Section: Surgical Unit/Operating Room
Issue Date: September 8 2015 Review Date: Revision Date: May 15 2017	Subject: Forced Air Warming System – Bair Paws

STANDARD GUIDELINE SUBJECT:

Forced Air Warming System – Bair Paws

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the guideline is to outline a standardized process to mitigate risk of surgical patients developing perioperative hypothermia, cardiac complications, infections and blood loss.

DEFINITIONS:

Hypothermia: Defined as a core body temperature of less than 36 degrees Celsius.

PROCEDURE:

Criteria for use:

Bair Paws gowns will be applied to patients undergoing the following procedures:

- All joint replacements (hip, knee and shoulder)
- Spine surgery
- Caesarean sections
- Bowel resections
- Hip fracture repair
- Open cholecystectomy

Contraindications:

In the presence of transdermal medication, Bair Paws should be avoided or the transdermal patch relocated. This will mitigate the enhanced absorption of the drug from the Bair Paws.

Pre-Op:

To apply Bair Paws

1. Connect Bair Paws hose to Bair Paws gown.
2. Place Bair Paws gown on patient.
3. Turn Bair Paws on.
4. Turn temperature guide to desired setting.
5. Do not place any clothing or blankets between the patient and the gown.
6. Monitor patient, including temperature and vital signs prior to gown being applied and 15 minutes following.
7. Instruct patient on how to use temperature guide.

Post anesthetic Care Unit (PACU):

1. The patient's temperature should be measured and documented on admission to PACU and then every 15 minutes.
2. If the patient's temperature is below 36 degrees Celsius, the patient is actively warmed using Bair Paws until discharged from PACU or until they are comfortably warm.
3. The patient will not be transferred to the nursing unit unless their temperature is 36 degrees Celsius or above.

Post-Op:

1. The patient's temperature and vital signs are monitored every 15 minutes until the patient is able to verbally communicate temperature sensation and has a sense of feeling comfortable.
2. Once this has been achieved, temperature and vital signs should be measured every 30 minutes while the Bair Paws gown is in use.
3. Discontinue use of Bair Paws with the temperature stabilized at 36 degree Celsius or above.

Documentation should include the following:

- Patient and family education,
- Patient's temperature and site of temperature assessment,
- Vital Signs,
- Physical assessment findings,
- Time of warming initiated and terminated,
- Patient comfort level,
- Unexpected outcomes,
- Additional interventions.

REFERENCES:

Clinical Nursing Skills Technique – Perry and Potter, 7th edition, 2013