



Regional Health Authority
Central Manitoba Inc.

Office régional de la santé
du Centre du Manitoba inc.

POLICY NUMBER:	NS-900
ISSUING AUTHORITY:	Maternal Child/Obs

ISSUE DATE:	September 2002
REVIEW DATE:	

SUBJECT: INCUBATOR

POLICY:

To isolate the newborn from the ambient environment, providing a controlled environment in which to stabilize an infant. The incubator is also used to house a newborn during the course of phototherapy treatments.

LOCATION:

Nursery Scrub Room

PROCEDURE:

1. Plug into an electrical outlet and turn the power switch "ON".
 - a) Set the temperature control knob to the "start" position. The "heat" light will illuminate. Allow 20 minutes for the incubator to warm up to approximately 33°C.
 - b) Monitor incubator temperature with the thermometer located inside the hood.
 - c) Rotate the temperature control knob to increase and decrease incubator temperature.

2. **When the desired incubator temperature is reached:** slowly turn the temperature control knob counter-clockwise until the amber "heat" light just goes out. (Incubator temperature will be automatically maintained within plus or minus 1°F.)
 - a) Fill the humidity reservoir with sterile, distilled water. Pull the spout downward to the first click, start and fill, then close the spout.
 - b) Set the "humidity control" knob to approximately 50.
 - c) Check water level every shift.

3. Check hood thermometer several times each shift. An audible and visual (red light) high temperature alarm indicates the incubator is overheating (39°C or 102°F). If temperature is high, remove infant and place in an alternate incubator. If the hood thermometer reads a low temperature, check for excess blankets, diapers, etc. that may be blocking the circulation of air.

Infant Bed

1. May be positioned in Trendelenburg or Fowlers position.
2. Turn levers to the vertical position to bring bed forward during examination of infant.

Doors

1. To open, grasp the door handle and lift straight up, enough to disengage the door from the front lip. Swing the door up and towards the back let it rest on the top of the hood. To close, allow door to rest inside the front lip.
2. Press the latch to open portholes.

Oxygen: (Must be ordered by the Physician)

1. A 35-40% oxygen-limiting inlet is supplied with a slip-on rubber cap and a 100% O² inlet is supplied with a metal screw-on cap. Both inlets are located on the filter unit on the outside of the incubator.
2. Connect tubing from the flowmeter to the 35-40% inlet nipple at a flow of 3 liters per minute. (The concentration will be limited to 40% regardless of the flow rate). For O² concentrations greater than 40%, connect the tubing to the 100% inlet nipple and increase flow to desired concentration.
3. Check O² concentrations with an oxygen analyzer to ensure the desired concentration is achieved. Check concentration hourly and document on newborn chart.

Photo-Light Therapy: (Must be ordered by the Physician)

Refer to separate Nursing Procedure in Obstetrical Manual.

1. Place the Phototherapy Unit on top of the incubator. Plug into an electrical outlet.

NOTE: Fluorescent tubes provide some heat.

Air Filters:

Bio Medical Electronics of Brandon, and the Maintenance Department, change the filters every three months.

Cleaning:

1. Drain residual water from reservoir by pulling spout downward to second click.
2. Clean mattress, hood and all surfaces with Savlon. Rinse, using warm water. Dry.

3. Remove all plastic sleeves from access ports and hand wash in Savlon. Rinse in warm water. Dry.
4. Run incubator for 24 hours after draining residual water unless incubator is required for another patient.