



# Prince Sultan Military Medical City

## Controlled Document, Not to be Reproduced

Departmental Policy	Dept: Respiratory Care Department	Policy No: 1-2-9451-03-019 Version No: 01
Title: WEANING FROM MECHANICAL VENTILATION		JCI Code: COP
Supersedes: 1-2-9255-01-005 Version No: 02; 4 April 2018	Copy No:	Page 1 of 6

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Weaning is the process of removing a patient from mechanical ventilation (MV) when it is decided he/she is able to support his/her own ventilator requirements. The use of protocol guidelines has the potential advantage to reduce both the duration of mechanical ventilation and the weaning process.
- 1.2 Weaning from MV as early as possible is an essential part of the ventilator bundle to decrease incidence of ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP).

### 2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 To describe the steps and guidelines involved in the weaning of mechanically ventilated patients.
- 2.2 To provide more consistent practice in weaning by providing structured guidance.
- 2.3 To improve efficiency of practice by following an expert consensus to reduce variation produced by the application of individual judgment and experience.

### 3. POLICY

- 3.1. Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP) must acquire from the attending physician a written order to "**Wean per protocol**".
- 3.2. The attending physician must issue a written order of "Do not follow protocol when weaning", if he or she deems deviation from the protocol is necessary.
- 3.3. RCP must correctly identify patient using two patient identifiers (wrist band and medical record number).
- 3.4. RCP must ensure patient privacy, washes hands, and implements Standard Precautions.
- 3.5. RCP must review medical records for medical history, diagnosis, and current pulmonary status before starting to wean.
- 3.6. RCP must apply appropriate weaning protocol for their patient's category i.e." Protocol for initial weaning of patients", " Protocol for Difficult to Wean Patients- PSV mode", Protocol for Difficult to wean Patients – SIMV mode".
- 3.7. RCP must document all weaning attempts, duration and outcomes in the patient's medical records.
- 3.8. RCP must document adverse patient reaction in the "critical Events List".



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- 3.9. RCP must relay any patient data pre, during and post weaning during physicians rounds to achieve better patient care and better communication.

## 4. RESPONSIBILITIES

### 4.1 Physicians:

- 4.1.1 To assess a patient's readiness to wean from mechanical ventilation.
- 4.1.2 To write an order if patient is not suitable for weaning by the protocol.
- 4.1.3 To order the administration of appropriate medications to facilitate weaning if required.

### 4.2 RCP's:

- 4.2.1 Patient will be screened for Spontaneous Awakening Trial (SAT) before proceeding to SBT
- 4.2.2 On a daily basis prior to physician rounds. Screen the patient for possibility of Spontaneous Breathing Trial (SBT).
- 4.2.3 Assess and determine a patient's need for mechanical ventilation and relay any relative findings to the physician.
- 4.2.4 Confirm and check the physician's order to 'wean by protocol'.
- 4.2.5 Perform daily screening using the 'ABCD screen model'. See appendix 1.
- 4.2.6 Measure and use the RSBI as a preliminary predictor of successful or unsuccessful weaning.
- 4.2.7 Use the 'automatic tube compensation' feature to help the patient overcome the resistance from the artificial airway.
- 4.2.8 Once the DTW protocol is initiated, the RCP must implement two weaning attempts per 24 hours, as tolerated by the patient.
- 4.2.9 Perform continuous patient monitoring using the 'ACBD assess model' throughout the weaning process. See appendix 2.
- 4.2.10 Perform arterial blood gases as indicated throughout the weaning process.
- 4.2.11 Perform appropriate documentation of initiation, progress, and termination of the weaning process using the SOAP format.





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4.2.12 Communicate and document any relevant information regarding the patient's condition to the bedside nurse and the attending physician.

4.2.13 Anticipate and/or recognize actual or potential weaning failure symptoms through on-going patient assessment and surveillance.

4.2.14 Involvement in the coordination of care activities by working directly with the bedside nurse.

### 4.3 Nurses:

4.3.1 On a daily basis prior to physician round, contribute to the screening and assessment of the patient for possibility of weaning.

4.3.2 Continuous monitoring of patient's vital signs and communicate changes in the patient's condition to the attending physician and the bedside RCP.

4.3.3 Administration of medications as ordered by the physician to enhance the patient's tolerance for weaning.

4.3.4 Intervenes to promote successful weaning from mechanical ventilation by ensuring adequate nutrition, pain management, rest, and alleviation from anxiety.

4.3.5 Assist the RCP in any necessary interventions to optimize the patient's weaning process. i.e. correct positioning, managing secretions.

## 5. DEFINITION OF TERMS

5.1 A 'weaning from mechanical ventilation' protocol is a set of written structured guidelines or algorithms for reducing ventilator support. It usually includes three components:

5.1.1 A list of objective criteria to determine a patient's readiness to wean.

5.1.2 Structured guidelines for reducing ventilator support.

5.1.3 List of criteria for assessing a patient's tolerance of the weaning process.

5.2 The 'difficult to wean' (DTW) patient is a patient that requires prolonged mechanical ventilation, which is usually  $\geq 7$  days. In our department's weaning protocol, patients are considered DTW when weaning trials fail for three or more consecutive days.

5.3 The rapid shallow breathing index (RSBI) is the ratio of a patient's spontaneous respiratory rate (f) in breaths per minute divided by the spontaneous tidal volume (Vt) in liters. Values above 105 are associated with poor weaning outcomes.



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## 6. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all health care professional (HCP) who give direct care to patients. This includes respiratory care practitioners (RCP), physicians, and nurses.

## 7. PROCEDURES

7.1 Utilize the following three algorithms as specified in the:

- 7.1.1 Protocol-Initial Weaning of Patients (Appendix 3)
- 7.1.2 Protocol of Difficult to Wean Patients (PSV) (Appendix 4)
- 7.1.3 Protocol for Difficult to Wean Patients (SIMV mode) (Appendix 5)

## 8. REFERENCES

- 8.1. Bill Croft PhD, RRT, RCP, "Ventilator Weaning Protocols" February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012.
- 8.2. Blackwood B, Alderdice F, Burns KE, Cardwell CR, Lavery G, O'Halloran P. Protocolized versus non-protocolized weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation in critically ill patients. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010; 5: CD006904
- 8.3. Koch RL. Therapist driven protocols: a look back and moving into future. Crit Care Clin. 2007; 23: 149-59, vii-viii.
- 8.4. MacIntyre Nr. Evidence-based guidelines for weaning and discontinuing ventilatory support: a collective task force, Facilitated by the American College of Chest Physicians; the American Association of Respiratory Care; and the American Society of Critical Care Medicine: Chest, 2001; 120 (6 suppl): 3755-955.
- 8.5. MacIntyre NR: Respiratory mechanics in the patient who is weaning from the ventilator, Respiratory
- 8.6. Care, 2005; 50:275-86.



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## 9. **APPENDICES**

- 9.1. ABCD Screen (Appendix 1)
- 9.2. ACBD Assess (appendix 2)
- 9.3. Protocol – Initial Weaning of Patients (Appendix 3)
- 9.4. Protocol for Difficult to Wean Patients (PSV) (Appendix 4)
- 9.5. Protocol for Difficult to Wean Patients (SIMV mode) (Appendix 5)





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## 10. ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT/S

10.1 Respiratory Care Department.

10.2 Intensive Care Services.

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Date Reviewed	Date of Next Review	



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## 10. ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT/S

10.1 Respiratory Care Department.

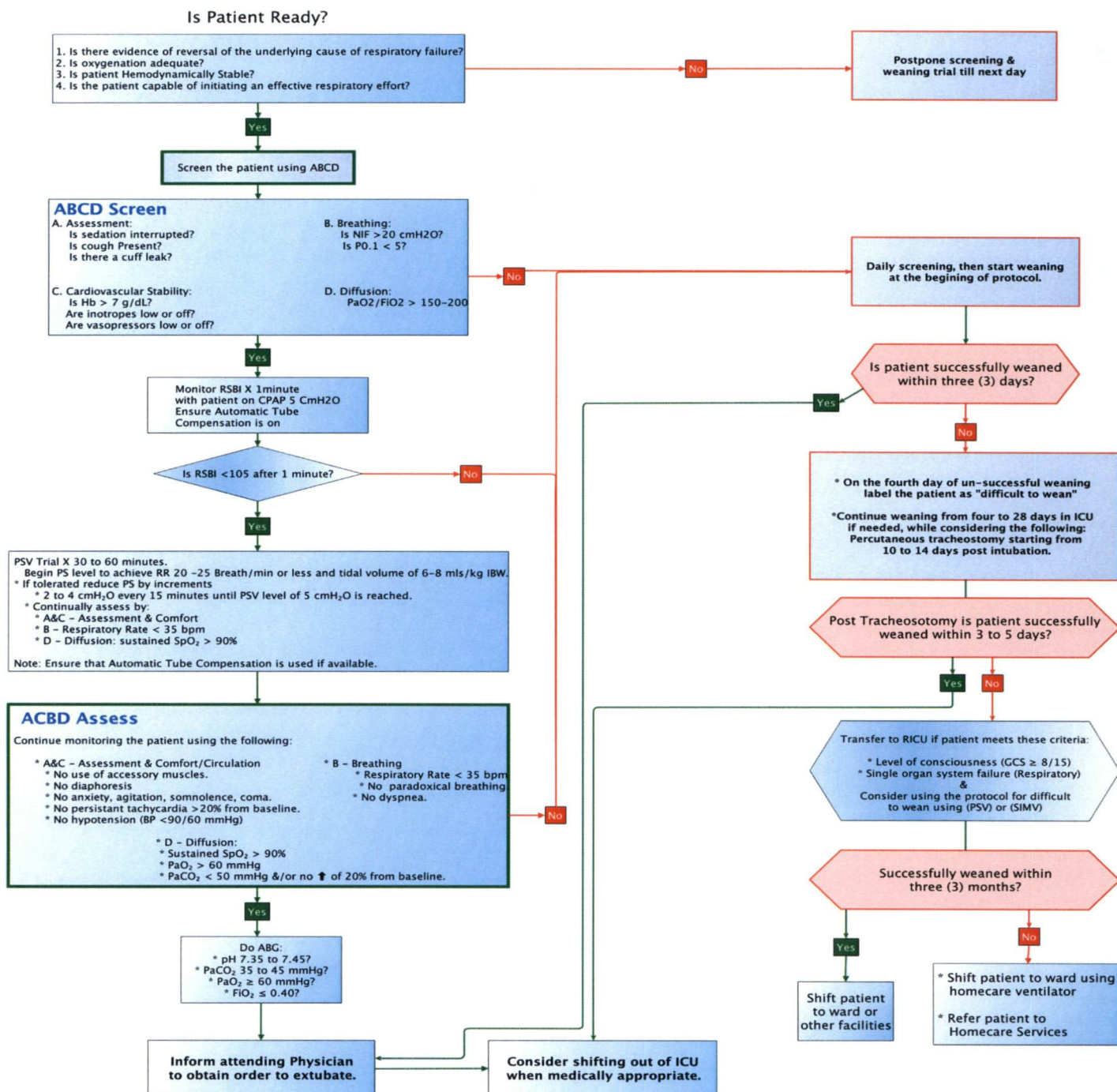
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Date Reviewed	Date of Next Review	
25 January 2021	3 February 2021	





# Protocol – Initial Weaning of Patients (Assess Patient at 08:00 A.M. Daily)



## Steps for Difficult to Wean Tracheostomy Patients

1. Begin with a PSV level that achieves a RR of 20 to 25 breaths/minute or less.
2. Use PS to achieve a tidal volume of 6 to 8 ml/Kg IBW.
3. Rest patient on an appropriate & comfortable level of ventilation X 4–6 hours.
4. Then retry PSV trial for another 2 hours only.  
NOTE: Assess the patient between trial for tolerance of weaning using these criteria & discontinue trial if criteria are not met.
  - RR ≥ 25 breaths/minute
  - HR ≥ 100 to 120 bpm or 20% change from baseline.
  - Systolic BP > 180 mmHg or < 90 mmHg or 20% from baseline.
  - Agitation, anxiety, diaphoresis.
  - Any changes in the respiratory patterns.
5. Rest patient on full support ventilation overnight.
6. Increase PSV trial (period) by 2 hours each day.
7. Once patient tolerates PS for 12 hours proceed to ATM trial X 2 hours only.
8. Rest patient on appropriate mode X 4 to 6 hours.
9. Re-try ATM for another 2 hours only.
10. Rest patients on an appropriate mode overnight.
11. If patient tolerates ATM > 12 hours, do an ABG. If results are acceptable, continue on ATM.
12. Document all weaning trials and outcomes in the "RICU Daily Weaning Trial" Sheet. If patient is in RICU or in RT progress note if patient is in ICU.
13. At any stage of weaning, if the patient fails to wean, patient will be restarted on appropriate mode of ventilation. Plan is rolled back to 1 day prior to the day that the patient failed. In 2–3 days consider SIMV.

## Abort Weaning if ANY of the Following Occur

Respiratory Rate ≥ 30 breaths/minute.  
Large increase or decrease in Ve.  
Decrease in SpO<sub>2</sub> ≤ 90%  
PaO<sub>2</sub> < 60 mmHg  
PaCO<sub>2</sub> > 50 mmHg &/or ↑ 20% from baseline.  
pH < 7.30  
Increased use of accessory muscles.  
Paradoxical breathing.  
Diaphoresis  
Dyspnea.  
Persistent tachycardia ≥ 120 bpm.  
Hypotension (BP < 90/60 mmHg)  
Angina  
New arrhythmias.  
Anxiety, agitation, somnolence, coma.

## Abbreviations

RSBI – Rapid/Shallow Breathing Index)  
CPAP – Continuous Positive Airway Pressure  
PSV – Pressure Support Ventilation  
ATM – Aerosol Trach Mask  
RR – Respiratory Rate  
PS – Pressure Support  
IBW – Ideal Body Weight  
SpO<sub>2</sub> – Pulse Oximetry Oxygen Saturation  
RICU – Respiratory Intensive Care Unit  
VE – Minute Ventilation  
NIF – Negative Inspiratory Force  
P0.1 – Occlusion Pressure (0.1 second)  
Hb – Hemoglobin  
GCS – Glasgow Coma Scale

## References:

- Bill Croft PhD, RRT, RCP, "Ventilator Weaning Protocols" February 2nd, 2012  
Blackwood B, Alderdice F, Burns KE, Cardwell CR, Lavery G, O'Halloran P. Protocolized versus non-protocolized weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation in critically ill adult patients. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010; 5: CD006904.  
Koch RL. Therapist driven protocols: a look back and moving into future. Crit Care Clin. 2007; 23: 149–59. vii–viii.  
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MacIntyre NR. Respiratory mechanics in the patient who is weaning from the ventilator. Respir Care. 2005; 50:275–86.  
MacIntyre N. Discontinuing mechanical ventilator support. Chest. 2007; 132: 1049–56.  
Durbin CC. Tracheostomy: why, when, and how? Respir Care. 2010; 55:1056–68.





# Protocol for Difficult to Wean Patients (PSV)

(Assess Patient at 08:00 A.M. Daily)



## Is Patient Ready?

1. Is there evidence of reversal of the underlying cause of respiratory failure?
2. Is oxygenation adequate?
3. Is patient Hemodynamically Stable?
4. Is the patient capable of initiating an effective respiratory effort?

No

Postpone screening & weaning trial till next day

Yes

Start Here:  
Screen the patient using ABCD

## ABCD Screen

- A. Assessment:**  
Is sedation interrupted?  
Is cough Present?
- B. Breathing:**  
Is NIF > 20 cmH<sub>2</sub>O?  
Is P<sub>0.1</sub> < 5?
- C. Cardiovascular Stability:**  
Is Hb > 7 g/dL?  
Are inotropes low or off?  
Are vasopressors low or off?
- D. Diffusion:**  
PaO<sub>2</sub>/FIO<sub>2</sub> > 150-200

No

Yes

Monitor RSBI X 1 minute  
with patient on PSV (PS = 0)  
Ensure Automatic Tube  
Compensation is on

RSBI < 105  
> 1 minute

No

Rest Patient 4 – 6 Hrs.  
Repeat ABCD Screening  
& weaning trial.  
If after 2 trials patient does not  
achieve 2 hours of spontaneous  
breathing resume weaning the  
next day, and start at  
the beginning of  
the algorithm

Yes

## Start PS Trial.

- \* Begin with a PSV level that achieves a RR of 20 to 25 breaths/minute or less.
- \* Use PS to achieve a tidal volume of 6 to 8 ml/Kg IBW.

## ACBD Assess

Continue monitoring the patient using the following:

- \* A&C – Assessment & Comfort/Circulation
  - \* No use of accessory muscles.
  - \* No diaphoresis
  - \* No anxiety, agitation, somnolence, coma.
  - \* No persistent tachycardia > 20% from baseline.
  - \* No hypotension (BP < 90/60 mmHg)
- \* B – Breathing
  - \* Respiratory Rate < 35 bpm
  - \* No paradoxical breathing
  - \* No dyspnea.
- \* D – Diffusion:
  - \* Sustained SpO<sub>2</sub> > 90%
  - \* PaO<sub>2</sub> > 60 mmHg
  - \* PaCO<sub>2</sub> < 50 mmHg &/or no ↑ of 20% from baseline.

No

Use SOAP format to  
document PSV level,  
duration of the trial,  
reason(s) for failure.

Yes

After 2 Hrs, is  
trial successful?

No

Yes

1. Rest patient on an appropriate & comfortable level of ventilation X 4-6 hours.
2. Then retry PSV trial for another 2 hours only.  
NOTE: Assess the patient between trial for tolerance of weaning using these criteria
  - RR ≥ 25 breaths/minute
  - HR ≥ 100 to 120 bpm or 20% change from baseline.
  - Systolic BP > 180 mmHg or < 90 mmHg or 20% from baseline.
  - Agitation, anxiety, diaphoresis.
  - Any changes in the respiratory patterns.
3. Rest patient on full support ventilation overnight.
4. Increase PSV trial (period) by 2 hours each day.
5. Once patient tolerates PS for 12 hours proceed to ATM trial X 2 hours only.
6. Rest patient on appropriate mode X 4 to 6 hours.
7. Re-try ATM for another 2 hours only.
8. Rest patients on an appropriate mode overnight.
9. If patient tolerates ATM > 12 hours, do an ABC. If results are acceptable, continue on ATM.
10. Document all weaning trials and outcomes in the "RICU Daily Weaning Trial" Sheet. If patient is in RICU or in RT progress note if patient is in ICU.
11. At any stage of weaning, if the patient fails to wean, patient will be restarted on appropriate mode of ventilation. Plan will be rolled back to 1 day prior to the day that the patient failed. In 2-3 days consider SIMV.

## Abbreviations

RSBI – Rapid/Shallow Breathing Index)  
CPAP – Continuous Positive Airway Pressure  
PSV – Pressure Support Ventilation  
ATM – Aerosol Trach Mask  
RR – Respiratory Rate  
PS – Pressure Support  
IBW – Ideal Body Weight  
SpO<sub>2</sub> – Pulse Oximetry Oxygen Saturation  
RICU – Respiratory Intensive Care Unit  
VE – Minute Ventilation  
NIF – Negative Inspiratory Force  
P<sub>0.1</sub> – Occlusion Pressure (0.1 second)  
Hb – Hemoglobin  
GCS – Glasgow Coma Scale

## Abort Weaning if ANY of the Following Occur

Respiratory Rate ≥ 30 breaths/minute.  
Large increase or decrease in Ve.  
Decrease in SpO<sub>2</sub> ≤ 90%  
PaO<sub>2</sub> < 60 mmHg  
PaCO<sub>2</sub> > 50 mmHg &/or ↑ 20% from baseline.  
pH < 7.30  
Increased use of accessory muscles.  
Paradoxical breathing.  
Diaphoresis  
Dyspnea.  
Persistent tachycardia ≥ 120 bpm.  
Hypotension (BP < 90/60 mmHg)  
Angina  
New arrhythmias.  
Anxiety, agitation, somnolence, coma.

## References:

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# Protocol for Difficult to Wean Patients (SIMV Mode)

(Assess Patient at 08:00 A.M. Daily)



## Is Patient Ready?

1. Is there evidence of reversal of the underlying cause of respiratory failure?
2. Is oxygenation adequate?
3. Is patient Hemodynamically Stable?
4. Is the patient capable of initiating an effective respiratory effort?

No

Postpone screening & weaning trial till next day

Yes

Start Here:  
Screen the patient using ABCD

## ABCD Screen

- A. Assessment:**  
Is sedation interrupted?  
Is cough Present?
- B. Breathing:**  
Is NIF > 20 cmH<sub>2</sub>O?  
Is P<sub>0.1</sub> < 5?
- C. Cardiovascular Stability:**  
Is Hb > 8 g/dL?  
Are inotropes low or off?  
Are vasopressors low or off?
- D. Diffusion:**  
PaO<sub>2</sub>/FIO<sub>2</sub> > 150-200

No

Yes

Monitor RSBI X 1 minute  
with patient on CPAP 5 cmH<sub>2</sub>O  
Ensure Automatic Tube  
Compensation is on

After 1 minute  
Is RSBI < 105?

Yes

No

Rest Patient 4 - 6 Hrs.  
Repeat ABCD Screening  
& weaning trail.  
If after 2 trials patient does not  
achieve 2 hours of spontaneous  
breathing resume weaning the  
next day, and start at  
the beginning of  
the algorithm

- \* Shift to combination SIMV/PS X 30 minutes
- \* Determine SIMV rate based on (Full Control) rate -2  
- Use Automatic Tube Compensation feature
- \* PS level:
  - Set PS at a minimum tolerated level & keep it FIXED to:
    - To maintain patient's comfort
    - To achieve RR 20 to 25 breaths/min
    - To achieve tidal volumes of 6 to 8 ml/Kg of IBW
- \* Use same FIO<sub>2</sub> & PEEP as in full control mode
- Use ACBD for continuous patient assessment

## Steps for Difficult to Wean Tracheostomy Patients

1. Begin with a PSV level that achieves a RR of 20 to 25 breaths/minute or less.
2. Use PS to achieve a tidal volume of 6 to 8 ml/Kg IBW.
3. Rest patient on an appropriate & comfortable level of ventilation X 4-6 hours.
4. Then retry PSV trial for another 2 hours only.  
NOTE: Assess the patient between trial for tolerance of weaning using these criteria & discontinue trial if criteria are not met.
  - RR ≥ 25 breaths/minute
  - HR ≥ 100 to 120 bpm or 20% change from baseline.
  - Systolic BP > 180 mmHg or < 90 mmHg or 20% from baseline.
  - Agitation, anxiety, diaphoresis.
  - Any changes in the respiratory patterns.
5. Rest patient on full support ventilation overnight.
6. Increase PSV trial (period) by 2 hours each day.
7. Once patient tolerates PS for 12 hours proceed to ATM trial X 2 hours only.
8. Rest patient on appropriate mode X 4 to 6 hours.
9. Re-try ATM for another 2 hours only.
10. Rest patients on an appropriate mode overnight.
11. If patient tolerates ATM > 12 hours, do an ABG. If results are acceptable, continue on ATM.
12. Document all weaning trials and outcomes in the "RICU Daily Weaning Trial" Sheet. If patient is in RICU or in RT progress note if patient is in ICU.
13. At any stage of weaning, if the patient fails to wean, patient will be restarted on appropriate mode of ventilation. Plan is rolled back to 1 day prior to the day that the patient failed. In 2-3 days consider SIMV.

## Abort Weaning if ANY of the Following Occur

Respiratory Rate ≥ 30 breaths/minute.  
Large increase or decrease in V<sub>e</sub>.  
Decrease in SpO<sub>2</sub> ≤ 90%.  
PaO<sub>2</sub> < 60 mmHg  
PaCO<sub>2</sub> > 50 mmHg &/or ↑ 20% from baseline.  
pH < 7.30  
Increased use of accessory muscles.  
Paradoxical breathing.  
Diaphoresis  
Dyspnea.  
Persistent tachycardia ≥ 120 bpm.  
Hypotension (BP < 90/60 mmHg)  
Angina  
New arrhythmias.  
Anxiety, agitation, somnolence, coma.

## Abbreviations

RSBI - Rapid/Shallow Breathing Index  
CPAP - Continuous Positive Airway Pressure  
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SpO<sub>2</sub> - Pulse Oximetry Oxygen Saturation  
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VE - Minute Ventilation  
NIF - Negative Inspiratory Force  
P<sub>0.1</sub> - Occlusion Pressure (0.1 second)  
Hb - Hemoglobin  
GCS - Glasgow Coma Scale

## ACBD Assess

Continue monitoring the patient using the following:

- \* A&C - Assessment & Comfort/Circulation
  - \* No use of accessory muscles.
  - \* No diaphoresis
  - \* No anxiety, agitation, somnolence, coma.
  - \* No persistent tachycardia > 20% from baseline.
  - \* No hypotension (BP < 90/60 mmHg)
- \* B - Breathing
  - \* Respiratory Rate < 35 bpm
  - \* No paradoxical breathing
  - \* No dyspnea.
- \* D - Diffusion:
  - \* Sustained SpO<sub>2</sub> > 90%
  - \* PaO<sub>2</sub> > 60 mmHg
  - \* PaCO<sub>2</sub> < 50 mmHg &/or no ↑ of 20% from baseline.

Yes

Is the SIMV trial tolerated?

No

Yes

- \* Continue trial or same SIMV rate/PSV
- \* Set PS level to:
  - To maintain patient's comfort
  - To achieve RR 20 to 25 breaths/min
  - To achieve tidal volumes of 4 to 6 ml/Kg of IBW
- \* Use same FIO<sub>2</sub> & PEEP as in full control mode
- \* Use ACBD Assess for continuous monitoring

Is the SIMV trial tolerated?

No

Yes

- \* Decrease SIMV rate by 2 each day, with an appropriate level of PS to ensure patient's comfort. (RR 20-25, Vt 6-8 ml/Kg of IBW)
- \* When SIMV rate = 4 breaths/minute shift patient to PSV.
- \* Refer to the protocol for PSV weaning.

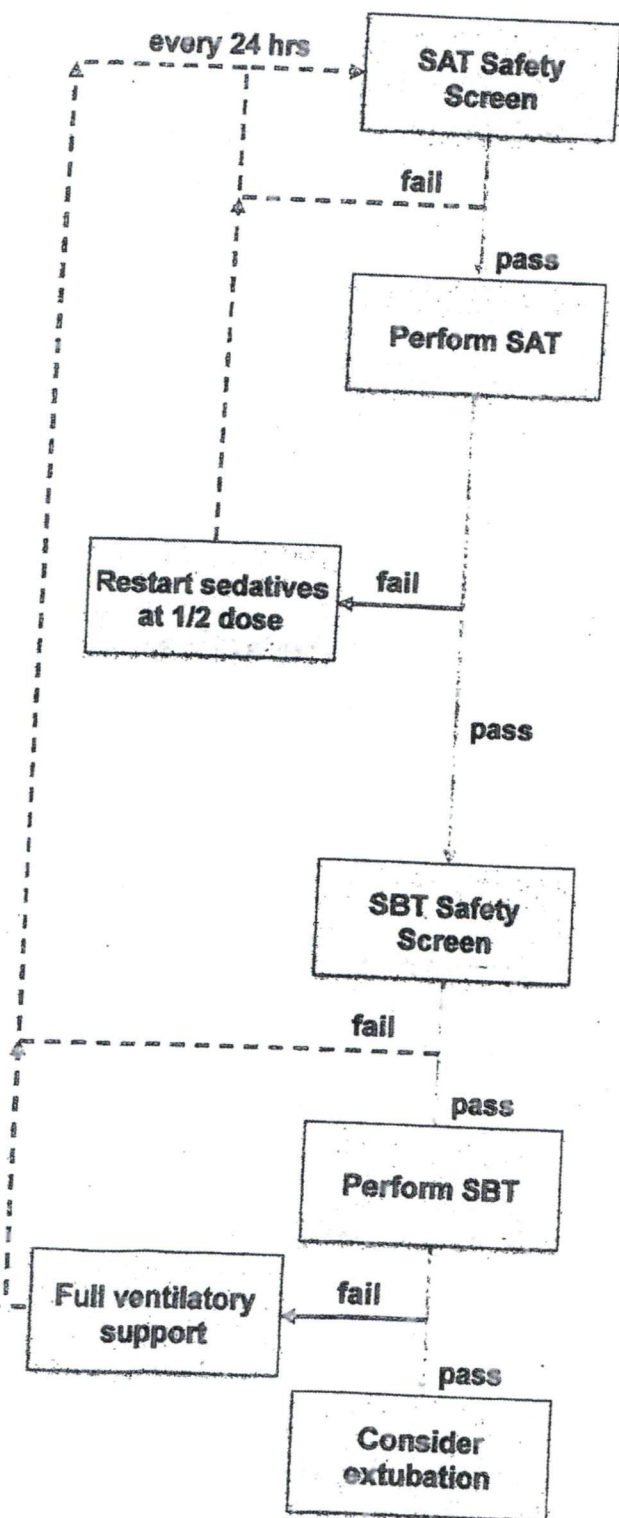
- \* Increase by increments of 2 to alleviate high RR & ensure patient comfort.
- \* If patient still does not tolerate weaning, rest patient for the rest of the day on full support ventilation.
- \* Restart weaning trial the next day using the previous tolerated setting.

## References:

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# **"Wake Up and Breathe" Protocol** **Spontaneous Awakening Trials (SATs) + Spontaneous Breathing Trials (SBTs)**



**SAT Safety Screen**

- No active seizures
- No alcohol withdrawal
- No agitation
- No paralytics
- No myocardial ischemia
- Normal intracranial pressure

**SAT Failure**

- Anxiety, agitation, or pain
- Respiratory rate > 35/min
- Oxygen saturation < 88%
- Respiratory distress
- Acute cardiac arrhythmia

**SBT Safety Screen**

- No agitation
- Oxygen saturation ≥ 88%
- FIO<sub>2</sub> ≤ 50%
- PEEP ≤ 7.5 cm H<sub>2</sub>O
- No myocardial ischemia
- No vasopressor use
- Inspiratory efforts

**SBT Failure**

- Respiratory rate > 35/min
- Respiratory rate < 8/min
- Oxygen saturation < 88%
- Respiratory distress
- Mental status change
- Acute cardiac arrhythmia