

ALGORITHM ON THE PREVENTION OF ENTANGLEMENT AND ENTRAPMENT RELATED TO MEDICAL AND NON MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

This algorithm draws attention to medical devices leads or extensions, which could tangle or wrap around the infant/child during nursing care, and which could cause injury.

Care must be taken with tubing and monitoring leads with all infants and children in CHI at Crumlin but specifically the following:

- Before carrying out nursing care
- Any infant or child, who is moved for any reason with tubes, monitoring leads, lines or drains in situ.
- Infants and children with pre-existing conditions, using any medical or non-medical devices, which have cords, straps tubing or lines.
- Very restless or active / combative or agitated infants or children.
- Developmental / cognitively impaired infants or children.
- Altered level of consciousness in infants or children.
- Weakened or unsteady gait in infants or children.

Suggestions to consider:

- Weakened or unsteady gait in infants or children.
- Nasogastric tubes, enteral extension sets and all enteral feeding tubes and systems.
- Urinary catheters.
- Oxygen tubing, Airvo tubing, CPAP / BIPAP or any other ventilation assistance devices.
- Drains from wounds.
- Non-medical devices that have any length which could tangle. Any other monitoring that has leads or tube lengths attached should be tied up if too long

Suggested actions to prevent entanglement / entrapment by medical or non-medical equipment:

- Complete visual assessment of the infant or child.
- Remove all tubing, leads etc. as soon as possible once they are no longer required.
- Disconnect all tubing and monitoring leads prior to moving, if appropriate and roll them up securely.
- If disconnection is not possible, tie up the lines and monitoring leads prior to moving (*see picture below*)
- For drains, ensure another staff member can assist you, if required and manage the drain to ensure the drain is not inadvertently removed or dislodged
- Never attach a piece of equipment to the infant's cot or cot side

