

Unplanned Extubations



The importance of preventing unplanned extubations

A tracheal tube is a flexible tube inserted into the trachea, or windpipe, through the mouth or nose. The purpose of the tube is to maintain an open airway, and can also be used to administer certain drugs. An extubation is the removal of this tube, and an *unplanned* extubation occurs when the endotracheal tube is unintentionally removed or dislocated.

Unplanned extubations are associated with an increase in ventilator-associated pneumonia, length of stay in the hospital, and number of days on mechanical ventilation.

What we are doing

In Alberta, best safety event practices is a priority of all care. Staff, physicians, patients and their families have an important role to learn more about this effort. Additionally, staff will begin to track how successful we are in consistently following the best safety practices.

Results

We are in the process of developing our unplanned extubations team and determining our baseline event rate. Once we have established our baseline, we will be tracking the rates on a monthly basis.

Our current goal is to decrease the rate of unplanned extubations by June 30th, 2019.

▶ To learn more, visit ahs.ca/SafestTogether

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