Quick Look Procedure Resource for NON–CRITICAL CARE staff

What to do if the SpO₂ monitor alarms

WHEN TO PERFORM
1. On hearing the SpO₂ monitor alarm

HOW TO PERFORM

a) check monitor to see why it is alarming
b) check that the SpO₂ is attached to the patient
c) check that the oxygen source is still attached
d) is the patient still attached to the ventilator
e) is the ventilator also alarming

a) is the endotracheal tube in the correct position
b) check the level of oxygen that the patient is receiving
c) does the oxygen need to be increased
d) check an arterial blood gas

a) Does the patient need endotracheal suctioning
b) are both sides of the patient’s chest moving equally
c) is the patient coughing

KEY SAFETY CONCERNS/WHEN TO CALL FOR HELP
1. If SpO₂ <88: call for help
2. If you cannot find a reason for the drop in SpO₂: ↑Oxygen whilst waiting for help
3. Always ensure that you have another means of ventilating the patient