



APNEA MONITORS



Purpose: The purpose of an apnea monitor is to help detect an occurrence of cessation of breathing (apnea). These devices attach to the chest wall by way of electrodes and can detect the movement, or lack of movement of the chest wall. Since the chest wall must move during

breathing, an apnea monitor can detect lack of breathing. Apnea monitors are very sophisticated pieces of equipment and the user must follow all manufacturer operational and safety instructions. Apnea monitors are monitors only. Apnea monitors do not perform anything but notification, by way of alarms, of lack of breathing. Apnea monitors will *not* prevent or restore the loss of breathing or heart rate activity. A physician must prescribe and monitor the infant's progress.

Types: There are many different brands of apnea monitors and all utilize slightly different technologies, but most use chest movement as the main indicator of breathing. All equipment and supplies must be used in accordance with manufacturer's operating and safety precautions. The parents or guardians, and all who care for the child, must be cardiopulmonary resuscitation trained, and maintain that training throughout the length of apnea monitor use.

Use: The parents, guardians, or care providers must always follow these standards:

1. Make sure the alarm can be heard from all rooms you may be in.
2. Make sure you know how the alarms function and what to do in case of alarm.
3. Make sure you do not exceed the recommended use of the internal batteries.
4. Make sure the unit is always plugged into a 3-prong grounded outlet.
5. Make sure that the belts and electrodes are properly placed and maintained.
6. Make sure the users understand the proper on and off procedures.
7. Make sure monitors are maintained properly and in accordance with standards.
8. Make sure that all parents, guardians, and caregivers have read and

understand the apnea monitor user's manual.

Maintenance: The apnea monitor you are using is a very sensitive and sophisticated piece of equipment. These devices must always be properly maintained. Apnea monitors must be kept clean and free from any oil, grease, or dirt. They must also be kept away from oxygen sources, if feasible.

In addition, they must be tested for proper function as dictated by the manufacturer. This means the apnea monitor must be brought into the medical equipment rental company for a simulation check. The apnea monitor must be attached to a machine that simulates alarm parameters. This is the only way to verify prolonged functioning.

The parents, guardians, or caregivers must always alert Discount Drug Mart Professional Medical Equipment and Services of any change in address or location of the apnea monitor. If you don't follow the procedures prescribed for your infant by your physician and Discount Drug Mart Professional Medical Equipment and Services, you could be placing your infant's life in danger.

Discount Drug Mart Professional Medical Equipment and Services always provides the users with two sets of electrodes and wires. If at any time one set is broken or misplaced, call us immediately for the delivery of another set. The parents, guardians, or caregivers are responsible for always making sure there are two functioning sets.

Emergencies: Discount Drug Mart Professional Medical Equipment and Services understands that your apnea monitor service should *never* be interrupted. They maintain a technician on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The need for electrodes after hours is not considered an emergency. You are responsible for maintaining *two* functioning sets. If your equipment fails, ***call the main number and speak to the on-call technician.*** If you should experience an equipment failure, keep your infant awake and attended to at all times until a replacement is received.

**IF YOU CANNOT AROUSE YOUR INFANT OR IF HE/SHE IS BLUE,
DO NOT CALL DISCOUNT DRUG MART PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SERVICES,
CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY AND START CPR.**
