

Addressing UE risk factors

These recommendations can help nurses address risk factors for unplanned extubation (UE).

Recommendations

Risk factors

	Physical restraints	Decreased level of sedation	Absence of I.V. sedation	Duration of intubation	Nurses with <4 years of experience	Inappropriate nurse-to-patient ratio	UE event frequency increasing at night	Agitation	Fluids and secretion accumulation
Integrate sedation protocols.	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Incorporate nurse presence as alternative to restraints.	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Implement quality improvement programs for data tracking and staff education.	✓	✓	✓						
Develop standardized procedures.				✓	✓				
Implement bedside report.					✓				
Offer continuing education.					✓		✓		
Provide two licensed professionals for any procedure with an intubated patient.					✓				
Implement appropriate nurse-to-patient ratio (1:2).	✓					✓			
Integrate regular endotracheal tube suctioning.									✓
Increase the number of nurses and amount of surveillance during night shift.	✓					✓	✓		
Perform early and frequent screening for delirium in adults.							✓		
Perform daily evaluations to determine readiness for weaning/extubation.				✓				✓	