

# Respiratory Compromise: Do You Know the Risk Factors?

## Patient Factors<sup>1, 5-7</sup>

- Age (very young or elderly)
- History of cigarette/alcohol use
- Comorbidities \*
- Receiving medications that depress the drive to breathe
- Requires airway protection or intubation
- Does not understand the procedure, medications, risks or recovery process

## Procedural Factors<sup>1, 7</sup>

- Recent long or complicated procedure requiring anesthesia, sedation or pain-relieving medications
- Transfusion was required during a surgical procedure

## Caregiver Factors<sup>2-4</sup>

- Communication barriers within the healthcare team
- Alarm fatigue
- Improper/insufficient education or training
- Medication errors
- Caregiver fatigue/illness

## Institutional Factors<sup>2-4</sup>

- Underfunding
- Distant location of monitoring stations or equipment relative to staff and patients
- Environmental factors (noise, lighting, temperature)
- Lack of protocols for medication administration and patient monitoring

\* Comorbidities include cardiovascular, lung, liver, kidney or neuromuscular disease; cancer, diabetes, obesity, sepsis, organ dysfunction/failure; CNS injury or disease; chest cage dysfunction; sleep disordered breathing

**Early recognition of risk factors and continuous monitoring of oxygenation and ventilation are important steps in preventing respiratory compromise.**



### Reference List: Risk Factors for Respiratory Compromise

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