



Competency Checklist

Using 3M™ Bair Hugger™ OR, Plus or Pediatric Warming Gowns

Employee Name _____ Date _____

Facility/Dept. _____ Date _____

Purpose: The goal of actively warming patients preoperatively, intraoperatively, and postoperatively is to help prevent unintended perioperative hypothermia. Forced-air warming is an active warming method for maintaining normothermia in surgical patients. Normothermia maintenance has been cited as a tool in SSI reduction efforts. Members of the intraoperative team must be knowledgeable about the benefits of warming surgical patients using an active warming method such as forced air warming, and how to connect and disconnect the 3M™ Bair Hugger™ warming unit to a 3M™ Bair Hugger™ warming gown.

Preoperative Warming

The goal of pre-operative warming with the Bair Hugger warming gown is to provide clinical prewarming prior to the induction of anesthesia to help prevent unintended hypothermia in the OR. The Bair Hugger warming gown should be connected to a Bair Hugger patient adjustable warming unit, Model 875, for clinical prewarming.

Prior to connecting the 3M Bair Hugger Model 875 warming unit to the Bair Hugger gown		Meets Standards
1.	Verify the Bair Hugger warming gown Instructions for Use, including Contraindications, Warnings, and Cautions have been read.	
2.	Verify the warming unit is on a flat hard surface, or securely mounted on a wall-mount bracket, IV pole, bedrail, rail-to-wall mount, or a suction wall mount adapter. (See instructions for use for detailed installation steps)	
3.	Ensure the warming unit is connected to a proper power source.	
Connecting the 3M Bair Hugger Model 875 warming unit to the Bair Hugger warming gown		
4.	Instruct patient to put the warming gown on so the opening is in the back. The gown has ties on the side and back of the neck. The gown should be tied loosely to help the air circulate in the gown insert.	
5.	Connect the warming unit hose to the warming gown's lower right hose port, by squeezing the two buttons on the sides of the nozzle, and inserting the nozzle into the open hose port. Release the buttons to lock the hose in place.	
6.	Turn the knob on the handheld temperature controller clockwise to turn the patient adjustable warming unit ON. The heater and blower will activate.	
7.	Verify the "power on" indicator light on the warming unit illuminates.	
8.	Allow the patient to adjust the temperature to a comfortable level. The temperature and airflow are adjusted by turning the knob on the handheld temperature controller. Encourage the patient to utilize the highest possible temperature setting for maximum clinical benefit.	
9.	Educate patient to adjust temperature setting as needed if he/she becomes uncomfortable or begins to sweat, by turning the knob counterclockwise to decrease airflow and temperature.	



Competency Checklist Using a 3M™ Bair Hugger™ Model 775 Warming Unit

10.	Verify air is always flowing through the warming gown to ensure optimum patient comfort.	
11.	Ensure children and vulnerable patients are not left unattended while using the warming unit.	

Disconnecting the Bair Hugger Model 875 warming unit from the warming gown

12.	To discontinue warming, turn the knob on the handheld temperature controller counter-clockwise until it clicks.	
13.	Disconnect the hose nozzle from the hose port by pressing the two buttons on the sides of the nozzle and withdrawing the nozzle from the port.	
14.	Insert the warming unit hose into the hose holder at top of warming unit.	
15.	Clean the warming unit and the outside of the warming unit hose (see cleaning instructions in the operator's manual).	

Intraoperative Warming

The goal of intraoperative warming with the Bair Hugger warming gown is to provide warmth to the patient throughout surgery to help prevent unintended hypothermia in the OR. Depending on the type of warming gown selected, there may be either one hose port (OR and pediatric warming gown) or two hose ports (Plus warming gown) available for use in the OR with a Bair Hugger 500 series, 700 series or 675 warming unit.

Intraoperative warming with a Bair Hugger OR, Plus or Pediatric warming gown		Meets Standards
1.	Insert the end of the Bair Hugger warming unit hose in the gown's lower left hose port if using the OR or pediatric warming gown; or the upper left shoulder port if using the Plus gown. Use a twisting motion to ensure a snug fit. Ensure to fit the hose end up to the visual marker and secure hose by attaching the sheet clip to either the OR bed or IV pole.	
2.	Select the desired temperature setting on the warming unit to initiate warming therapy (See the Operator's Manual for your specific warming unit model).	
3.	Ensure core temperature is continuously monitored. In the absence of continuous monitoring, monitor the temperature and cutaneous response of patients who are incapable of reacting, communicating and/or who cannot sense temperature a minimum of every 15 minutes or per your institutional protocol. Monitor the patient's vital signs regularly.	
4.	Adjust air temperature or discontinue therapy when the therapeutic goal is reached, if elevated temperatures are recorded or if there is an adverse cutaneous response in the warmed area.	
5.	If the red over-temp indicator light illuminates and alarms, unplug the warming unit and contact a qualified service technician.	

Disconnecting the Bair Hugger warming unit from the warming gown

6.	Turn the unit off or to standby mode to discontinue warming therapy.	
7.	Disconnect the hose nozzle from the hose port.	
8.	Clean the warming unit in accordance with hospital practices for cleaning OR equipment. After every use; wipes the warming unit, the outside of the warming unit hose, and any other surfaces that may have been touched. Uses a damp, soft cloth and a hospital approved mild detergent, germicidal disposable wipes, disinfecting towelettes, or antimicrobial spray. Let air dry or dry with a separate clean soft cloth. Does not immerse any part of warming unit or subject it to sterilization.	
9.	Properly store the unit and hose after cleaning.	



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Postoperative Warming

The goal of postoperative warming with the Bair Hugger warming gown is to provide either comfort warming with the Bair Hugger patient adjustable warming unit, Model 875, or clinical warming for hypothermic patients with the Bair Hugger Model 500 or 700 series or Model 675 warming unit.

PACU comfort warming with Model 875 warming unit		Meets Standards
1.	Connect the Bair Hugger warming unit hose to the gown's lower right hose port, by squeezing the two buttons on the sides of the nozzle, inserting the nozzle into the open hose port, and releasing the buttons to lock the hose in place.	
2.	Ensure to support the hose for secure attachment.	
3.	Turn the knob on the handheld temperature controller clockwise to turn the patient adjustable warming unit ON. The heater and blower will activate.	
4.	Verify the "power on" indicator light on the patient adjustable warming unit illuminates.	
5.	Adjust temperature setting as needed if the patient becomes uncomfortable or begins to sweat, by turning the knob counterclockwise to decrease airflow and temperature.	
6.	Verify air is always flowing through the warming gown to ensure patient comfort.	
7.	Ensure children and vulnerable patients are not left unattended while using the patient adjustable warming unit.	
8.	To discontinue therapy, refer to the previously listed steps under "Disconnecting the Bair Hugger Patient Adjustable warming unit from the warming gown"	
PACU clinical warming with a Bair Hugger 500 series, 700 series, or 675 warming unit		
9.	Insert the end of the Bair Hugger warming unit hose in the gown's lower left hose port, using a twisting motion to ensure a snug fit. Ensure to fit the hose end up to the visual marker and secure hose by attaching the sheet clip to either the OR bed or IV pole.	
10.	Select the desired temperature setting on the warming unit to initiate warming therapy (See the Operator Manual for your specific warming unit model).	
11.	To discontinue therapy, see above step, under "Disconnecting the Bair Hugger warming unit from the warming gown".	

Competency Statement: The perioperative RN/Anesthesia provider has met the requirements for competency validation in patient warming using the 3M™ Bair Hugger™ OR/Plus/Pediatric warming gown with a 3M Bair Hugger warming unit.

Evaluator's Signature _____ Date _____

(to be signed by facility personnel only)

Refer to the Bair Hugger OR/Plus/Pediatric warming gown IFU for a complete list of instructions, warnings and cautions.

