



Competency Checklist

Using 3M™ Bair Hugger™ Overbody Warming Blankets

Employee Name _____ Date _____

Facility/Dept. _____

Purpose: The goal of warming patients before, during, and after surgery is to prevent and treat unintended perioperative hypothermia. Forced-air warming is an active warming method for maintaining normothermia in surgical patients. Normothermia maintenance has been associated with improved patient outcomes. Members of the perioperative team must be knowledgeable about the benefits of warming surgical patients. They must demonstrate competence in use of the 3M™ Bair Hugger™ normothermia system, which includes blanket selection, proper blanket placement, connection, patient monitoring and disconnection.

Place the 3M Bair Hugger warming blanket on the patient		Meets Standards
1.	Places the warming blanket on patient to cover the patient as much as possible, while ensuring access to intended surgical site.	
2.	Places the perforated side of the 3M Bair Hugger warming blanket (the side with small holes) on top of the patient, directly against the skin.	
3.	For blanket styles with adhesive strips, removes the backing from the adhesive tape strip and adheres the blanket to the patient. Ensures that adhesive strip always faces toward surgical site.	
4.	For blanket styles with tie strips, pulls the tie-strip tabs, centered along the upper and lower edges of the warming blanket. Uses tie strips as needed to secure blanket.	
5.	For blanket styles with head drapes, if the patient is intubated and mechanically ventilated, unfolds the head drape over the patient's head and neck. If the patient is not mechanically ventilated, leaves the head drape folded.	
6.	Ensures that the warming blanket is not placed over a transdermal medication patch or cautery pad.	
7.	Verifies that patient securement devices (i.e. safety strap, armboard strap, tape) are not placed over/on top the warming blanket.	
8.	For the Model 62200 warming blanket, ensures that the blanket is not covering the feet and that the hose is not connected to the blanket directly in front of the groin.	
Connect the 3M Bair Hugger warming unit		
9.	Verifies the 3M Bair Hugger warming unit is safely placed onto a flat, hard, dry surface or is securely mounted on to a cart, IV pole, or bedrail.	
10.	Connects the warming unit to a properly grounded electrical source.	
11.	For blankets with more than one hose port, selects the appropriate hose port on the warming blanket.	



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12.	Inserts the end of the warming unit hose into the hose port of the warming blanket. Uses a twisting motion to ensure a snug fit. A visual marker is located around the mid-section of the hose end to guide the depth of hose insertion. Supports hose (with provided cord & clamp) to ensure secure attachment. Ensures patient is not lying on hose or that hose is not directly against skin.	
13.	Selects the desired temperature setting and fan speed, where applicable, on the warming unit and initiates warming therapy. Doesn't turn on warming unit until hose is connected to blanket. Doesn't use the hose alone to warm the patient.	

Monitor patient temperature during forced-air warming therapy

14.	3M recommends continuously monitoring core temperature. In the absence of continuous monitoring, monitors the temperature of patients who are incapable of reacting, communicating and/or who cannot sense temperature a minimum of every 15 minutes or according to institutional protocol.	
15.	Monitors cutaneous responses of patients who are incapable of reacting, communicating and/or who cannot sense temperature a minimum of every 15 minutes or according to institutional protocol.	
16.	Does not leave neonates, infants, children and other vulnerable patient populations unattended during warming therapy.	
17.	Does not leave patients with poor perfusion unmonitored during prolonged warming therapy.	
18.	Adjusts air temperature or discontinues therapy when the therapeutic goal is reached, if elevated temperatures are recorded or if there is an adverse cutaneous response in the warmed area.	

Disconnect the 3M Bair Hugger warming unit

19.	Based on the warming unit model utilized, turns the unit off or to standby mode to discontinue warming therapy. Disconnects the warming unit hose from the warming blanket and discards the blanket per hospital policy.	
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Competency Statement: The perioperative RN/Anesthesia provider has met the requirements for competency validation in patient warming using the 3M Bair Hugger overbody warming blankets.

Evaluator's Signature _____ Date _____

(to be signed by facility personnel only)

Refer to the 3M Bair Hugger Overbody Blanket IFU for a complete list of instructions, warnings and cautions.

