

HELP CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE ON A VENTILATOR

Some people need a machine—called a ventilator—to help them breathe. Sometimes, a person using this machine can catch an infection that will cause a cough, fever, chills, and difficulty breathing, sometimes called Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia.

As a family member, you can help by:



Washing your hands

Clean your hands with soap and water or ask the staff for help cleaning up before and after touching your loved one or contaminated surfaces.



Checking the bed

The bed should be upright at 30 degrees to prevent choking and coughing. You can use the sign on the side of your loved one's bed to check that the bed is correctly positioned. Ask the staff for help to adjust the height.



Cleaning your loved one's mouth

You can help clean your loved one's mouth after you have been trained by staff and can safely demonstrate the process.

By helping staff follow the above, you are helping your loved one. If they catch the illness, they will get treatment that could make them better without having to go to the hospital. Please ask your charge nurse or doctor if you have any questions.

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