

Key Nursing Considerations for the Bunnell LifePulse Jet Ventilator Model 204



Ready Light: (Alarms Panel just above the UPPER & LOWER SERVO buttons)

The Ready Light indicates that the alarms are active. When the Ready Light is illuminated, the alarms will help protect the patient in the face of changing conditions.

The Ready Light should be on prior to performing any activity around or to the patient.

Response to Alarms:

For alarms that allow the LifePulse to **keep running**, the appropriate response is to make sure the patient's chest is wiggling, then press the AUDIO PAUSED Button (located upper right corner) and contact Respiratory to troubleshoot.

For alarms that cause the LifePulse to **stop running**, the appropriate response is to support the patient by providing manual breaths with the conventional ventilator manual breath button or by increasing the conventional ventilator breath rate (this policy should be standardized in your hospital).

SERVO:

SERVO provides information about your patient if no changes have been made to either ventilator. A decrease from the baseline value can indicate the need for suctioning, poor tracheal tube position, or decreased compliance. An increase can be related to improved compliance or other conditions that increase demand on the LifePulse to maintain the PIP.

Pressure Fluctuations:

Pressure fluctuations on the LifePulse are often due to moisture, either from the LifePulse circuit or from the patient (secretions). Fluctuations that cause alarms need to be evaluated by Respiratory.

Fluctuations of less than 5 cm H₂O on the LifePulse are not significant because they are associated with very small changes in tidal volume (LifePulse I-time is 0.02 sec. not 0.4 sec like conventional vent).

It is useful to ensure the Pressure Monitoring tube (the clear tube on the Life Port ETT adapter) is positioned at an upward angle to help prevent moisture from interfering with the monitored airway pressures.

Suctioning with LifePulse:

Follow current hospital policy. Ideally, suctioning is a two-person procedure with RT involvement and the LifePulse HFJV in Standby. This technique will help ensure continuity of care and safest practice. Press the STANDBY button on the LifePulse, follow proper suctioning procedures, and then press the ENTER button to restart the LifePulse HFJV.

Other Considerations:

Upon assessment, look for adequate bi-lateral chest wiggle.

For persistent alarms & patient decompensation, evaluate chest wiggle, ET tube position, and examine the LifePort adapter and circuit for kinks or disconnects. Reposition the patient, ensure optimal ETT positioning, and unkink or reconnect compromised tubes.

The WhisperJet Patient Box stays close to patient. You can fold a blanket or towel to make a "pillow" or a "nest" for the patient box to help reduce noise and vibrations.