

Pulse Oximeters

1. Preventive Maintenance Qualitative Tests

- a. **Chassis/Housing:** Examine the exterior of the unit for cleanliness and general physical condition. Be sure that plastic housings are intact, that all hardware is present and tight, and that there are no signs of spilled liquids or serious abuse.
- b. **Mount/Fasteners:** If the device is mounted on a stand or cart, examine the condition of the mount. If it attached to the wall, or rests on a shelf, check the security of the attachment.
- c. **AC Plug/Receptacles:** Examine the AC power plug for damage. Attempt to wiggle the blades to check that they are secure. Shake the plug and listen for rattles that could indicate loose screws. If any damage is suspected, open the plug and inspect it. Should the equipment be placed on a cart that has extra electrical receptacles for other equipment, insert AC plugs into each and verify they are firmly held. Verify that no damage is present in the cart receptacles.
- d. **Line Cord:** Inspect the cord for signs of damage. If damaged, replace the entire cord or if the damage is near one end, cut out the defective portion. Wire a new power cord or plug on the same polarity. Check the line cords of battery chargers.
- e. **Strain Reliefs:** Examine the strain reliefs at both ends of the line cord. Be sure that they hold the cord securely. If the line cord is detachable, we recommend that the cord be affixed to the unit so that it cannot be removed by the operator.
- f. **Circuit Breaker/Fuse:** If the device has a switch-type circuit breaker, check that it moves freely. If the device is protected by an external fuse, check its value and type against that marked on the chassis and ensure that a spare is provided.
- g. **Cables:** Inspect the cables of sensors, electrodes, remote control and their strain reliefs and general conditions. Carefully examine cables to detect breaks in the insulation and to ensure that they are gripped securely in the connectors at each end to prevent rotation or other strain.
- h. **Fittings / Connectors:** Examine all fittings and electrical cable connectors for general condition. Electrical contact pins or surfaces should be straight and clean. Fittings should be tight and should not leak. If keyed connectors are used, make sure that the keying is correct.
- i. **Electrodes/Probes:** Confirm that special paddles and electrodes are available if appropriate for the area of use. Examine all paddles and probes for physical conditions and cleanliness. Should the equipment have fluids, dried electrode gel or debris on it, inform the clinical staff. Clean paddles and electrode surfaces if needed and ensure they are completely dry before testing. Ensure that probe labels clearly identify the associated units. Improperly interchanged probes of different types or from different manufacturers may adversely affect temperature control. Confirm that any necessary transducers (if applicable) are on hand and check their physical condition.

- j. Controls/ Switches:** Before changing any controls or alarm limits, check their position any settings appear inordinate (e.g., alarm limits at the ends of their range), consider the possibility of inappropriate clinical use or of incipient device failure. Record the settings of those controls that should be returned to their original positions following the inspection. Examine all controls and switches for physical condition, secure mounting, and correct motion. Check that control knobs have not slipped on their shafts. Where a control should operate against fixed-limit stops, check for proper alignment, as well as positive stopping. Check membrane switches for membrane damage (e.g., from fingernails, pens). During the course of the inspection, be sure to check that each control and switch performs its proper function.
- k. Battery / Charger:** Inspect the physical condition of batteries and battery connectors, if readily accessible. Check operation of battery-operated power-loss alarms, if so equipped. Operate the unit on battery power for several minutes to check that the battery is charged and can hold a charge. (The inspection can be carried out on battery power to help confirm adequate battery capacity.) Check battery condition by activating the battery test function or measuring the output voltage. Check the condition of the battery charger and, to the extent possible, confirm that it does, in fact, charge the battery. Be sure that the battery is recharged or charging when the inspection is complete. Some batteries require periodic deep discharges and recharging to maintain a maximum battery capacity. If this is recommended by the manufacturer, verify that it is being performed on schedule.
- l. Indicators/Displays:** During the course of the inspection, confirm the operation of all lights, indicators, and visual displays on the unit and charger, if so equipped. Be sure that all segments of a digital display function properly.

Pulse Oximeter: Observe a signal on a CRT display and check its quality (e.g., distortion, focus, 60 Hz noise). Verify the function of integral or accessory printers and the quality of any output. Also verify that the unit can be set to produce /an audible tone with each detected pulse, if so equipped. Connect the pulse oximeter probe to your finger or earlobe (whichever is appropriate) or to a ~ simulator, and verify that a reasonable SpO₂ and, pulse rate are displayed. .The SpO₂ for a healthy adult should fall between 95% and 100%. If a simulator is used, test at several SpO₂ and pulse rate values, if available. The displayed pulse rate should correspond to your manually palpated pulse (within 10%). If a plethysmogram wave- form is displayed, confirm that the signal corresponds to waveforms displayed in the operator's manual and that no excessive noise is present. If a pulse waveform simulator is available, verify that the oximeter displays appropriate SpO₂ and pulse rates when attached to it.

- m. User Calibration/Self-Test:** Verify operation of these features, if applicable.
- n. Alarms:** Operate the device in a way that activates all the alarms. Check that any associated interlocks function. Check action of disconnected-probe alarm, if unit so equipped. If the device has an alarm-silence feature, check the reset method.

Pulse Oximeter: Attach a probe to your finger or earlobe or to a simulator, and set pulse rate and SpO₂ alarm limits so that visual and audible alarms are activated. Verify that the alarm occurs within 1% SpO₂ or 1 beat per minute of the setting. If the unit has an alarm-silence feature, check the method of reset (e.g., manual or automatic) against the manufacturer's specifications. Remove the probe from your finger and verify that a probe disconnects or similar alarm occurs.



- o. Audible Signals:** Operate the device to activate any audible signals. Confirm appropriate volume, as well as the operation of a volume control, if so equipped. If audible alarms have been silenced or the volume set too low, alert clinical staff to the importance of keeping alarms at the appropriate level.
- p. Labeling:** Check that all necessary labels, conversion charts, and instruction cards are present and legible.

2. Preventive Maintenance Electrical Safety Test

- a. Grounding Resistance:** Using an ohmmeter, electrical safety analyzer, or multimeter with good resolution of fractional ohms, measure and record the resistance between the grounding pin of the power cord and exposed (unpainted and not anodized) metal on the chassis. We recommend a maximum of 0.5 Ohms.
- b. Leakage Current:** Measure chassis leakage current to ground with the grounding conductor of plug-connected equipment temporarily opened. Operate the device in all normal modes, including on, standby, and off, and record the maximum leakage current. Chassis leakage current to ground should not exceed 300 μ A.

3. Preventive Maintenance

- a.** *Clean* the exterior and interior
- b.** *Lubricate and clean* fan assembly if required
- c.** *Calibrate* if needed
- d.** *Replace* filter and battery if needed based on Scheduled Parts Replacement Policies.