Watch Out for...

Blocked expiratory filter on ventilator circuit

Watch Out Notice: 07

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What Happened?

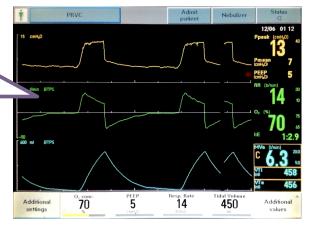
A patient developed unexplained ventilation problems, with very slow exhalation and rising peak airway pressures.

At worst, peak airway pressures were over 35 cmH₂0, causing significant cardiovascular compromise.

The problem was traced to a partially blocked expiratory HME filter, which had not been changed for 4 days.

When this was replaced, ventilation improved immediately.





The Facts:

- HME filters for Servo i ventilators should be changed every 24 hours.
- If left in place too long, filters become clogged, causing an obstruction to exhalation.

Protect Your Patients:

- Change HME filters on the Servo i Ventilator at least once per 24 hours.
 Use the CIS prompts and label new HMEs with the date and time of changing.
- When a patient becomes difficult to ventilate, remember it could be an equipment fault. Systematically check every part of the circuit, from the ET tube back to the machine.