

## Oxygen

- If your child requires oxygen the LTV team will show you how to attach it to the circuit. It should NEVER be attached directly to the NIPPY.

## Cleaning and Maintenance

### Dry Circuits

- Circuits (including bacterial filters) and catheter mounts should be inspected regularly and replaced weekly.
- Heat moisture exchanges (HME's) should be changed daily—these are used on **dry circuits only**.

### Wet (Humidified) circuits

- Speak to LTV team for specific cleaning and maintenance details as circuits can vary.

### Air Filters / Servicing

- The air filter at the back of the machine should be checked regularly and replaced monthly. Do not run the machine without the filter in place.
- The ventilator should be serviced yearly. Contact the LTV team if you notice it is due a service.

If you have any problems with your device or any questions please contact the Children's Long Term Ventilation team on;  
**0115 924 9924 ext.: 82207.**

Out of hours please contact the Critical Care unit on;  
**0115 9249924 ext 62207**

### Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment please speak to a member of staff or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS):

**Freephone:** 0800 183 0204

**From a mobile or abroad:** 0115 924 9924 ext 65412 or 62301

**E-mail:** [pals@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Letter:** NUH NHS Trust, c/o PALS, Freepost NEA 14614,  
Nottingham NG7 1BR

## Children's Long Term Ventilation Team Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire

# NIPPY Junior + Ventilator Invasive Ventilation



This document can be provided in different languages and formats. For more information please contact:

**Children's Long Term Ventilation Team**  
**E11 Curie Court, QMC Campus**  
**Derby Road, Nottingham**  
**NG7 2UH**

**Tel:** **0115 924 9924 ext.: 82207**  
**LTVteam@nuh.nhs.uk**

## What is the NIPPY Junior+ Ventilator?

The Nippy ventilator is a simple device that acts like a pair of bellows to help support breathing. The ventilator delivers pressure through the circuit and tracheostomy which helps the lungs to expand. This helps to keep the oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in the blood at the right values.

## Who is the NIPPY Junior+ Ventilator for?

**The most common reasons that children require ventilation are:**

**Airway difficulty** – there is a partial blockage to airflow into the lungs. The NIPPY holds the airway open by pushing open the walls of the airway.

**Muscle weakness** – the muscles of breathing are weak and poorly effective. As well as holding the airways open the NIPPY also supports the breath in to make it more effective.

**Lung Disease**— the lungs themselves are damaged and need some extra support from the NIPPY to make breathing more effective.

**Central Control**— the brain sends signals to the lungs to control breathing. If this is not working correctly the lungs may need the NIPPY to help control breathing.

**Invasive ventilation** means the child is ventilated via a tracheostomy. Some children will need to use the ventilator at all times. Others will use it just at night or for parts of the day and at night.

## Settings on the ventilator

The settings on the ventilator will have been set by the Long Term Ventilation (LTV) team. These settings will have been locked in so it doesn't matter if you accidentally press any of the buttons. Your ventilator should have the above lock sign in the bottom right hand corner. If your padlock is unlocked please contact the LTV team.

Settings you may come across;

**CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure);** The ventilator delivers a continuous pressure that helps maintain the airways open at the end of breathing out. EPAP (expiratory positive airway pressure) is set on the ventilator. Used mainly with children who struggle to keep their airway open.

**Pressure Support;** Both the breath in and out are supported. This is either triggered by the child's own inspiratory effort (breath in) or they can have a set breathing rate. Both the IPAP (inspiratory positive airway pressure) and EPAP are set. Used with children with a respiratory muscle weakness to help make each breath more effective but also with children who have a poor drive to breath / pauses in their breathing.

**Pressure Control;** As for pressure support but inspiratory time (Ti) is also set. Used for those children with a poor drive to breathe or that need more support than pressure support will give.

With both **Pressure Support** and **Pressure Control** two levels of pressure are set. This is sometimes called **Bi-Level**.

## Circuits

The NIPPY device has a single limb circuit. Air flows continuously from the machine, through a bacterial filter, along the tubing (red arrow) to the child where it attaches to the tracheostomy. Circuits can be dry, using room air only, or wet, where the air is humidified and warmed. Children who are ventilated via a tracheostomy usually use a humidified circuit at night and have a dry circuit during the day.



## Expiratory Ports

On breathing in, air flows from the circuit into the lungs. On breathing out the gases disappear from the child and the circuit into the room through an expiratory port in the circuit.

**It is important that the expiratory port of the circuit is never blocked as this is where the child breaths out. There are different types of expiratory ports available. Your LTV team will show you which type your child has.**

## Alarms

**If an alarm sounds first check on the child.**

The most common alarms are;

- **Low flow alarm;** may be caused by coughing / sneezing or blockage of any of the tubing / tracheostomy - check tubing / suction if indicated.
- **High flow / disconnection alarm;** usually caused by disconnection / misconnection of some part of the breathing circuit – reconnect tubing / tracheostomy. Check for holes in tubing. Let the LTV team know if there are ongoing problems with leaks around the tracheostomy as this will make the ventilator less effective.

## Other Issues

- **Power failure** —the ventilator has an internal battery that will last for about 4-6 hours and is charged whenever the machine is plugged in. You will also be provided with an external battery which also last 4-6hrs.