



TOOLKIT 28 · MEDICAL EQUIPMENT · TOOL 3 OF 4

Daily User Checks — The Ten Commonest Devices

The thirty-second check a nurse does before trusting a device with a patient: what to look at, what to test, when to tag it out

Device	Check every day / before use	Tag out and report if
Pulse oximeter	Powers on; probe clean and intact; reading on your own finger plausible (95–100 %, pulse matches)	No reading, erratic values, cracked probe
BP monitor / cuff	Cuff intact, correct size range available; tubing not cracked; reading plausible on a colleague; calibration sticker in date	Leaks, no reading, calibration overdue
Infusion pump	Powers on; battery charged; self-test passes; occlusion alarm sounds when the line is clamped; correct giving set	Any alarm fault, battery < 30 min, cracked door
Syringe driver	Battery / mains; correct syringe brand recognised; rate check on a test run	Wrong syringe recognition, rate error
Defibrillator / AED	Ready indicator green; pads and battery in date; paper (if any); test discharge per manual weekly	Any indicator red or absent; pads expired
Suction unit	Powers on; generates vacuum with the finger over the tubing; canister clean and sealed; tubing and catheters stocked	No vacuum, cracked canister, leaking
Oxygen concentrator / cylinder	Concentrator: filter clean, flow at set rate, no alarm. Cylinder: > 25 % full, key present, regulator seals, no oil or grease near the valve	Alarm, low flow, cylinder < 25 % without a spare
Glucometer	Strips in date and lot matched; daily QC solution reading within range (Toolkit 24); battery	QC out of range, damaged strips
ECG machine	Powers on; leads intact; paper loaded; date and time correct; calibration pulse 10 mm	Artefact on a test trace, missing lead
Patient monitor	Powers on; all parameters display; alarms set to the ward's limits and audible; cables intact	Silent alarm, missing parameter, damaged cable

Tag-out rule. A faulty device gets a red "DO NOT USE" tag, is unplugged and removed from the patient area, and is reported the same day on the fault log (Tool 2). Nobody "makes it work" for one more patient. Report near misses caused by equipment on the incident form (Toolkit 8) — they are how the facility learns which devices to replace.

ASF standards: Standard 3 — equipment safety (means of verification: user checks documented; fault log; tags)