Product Applications From the Field

Interviews with end users of EMS products

CPAP in the Sky With Small, Light Transport Vent

In the medical helicopter environment, size and weight matter. The more of each that's given over to equipment, the less is left for patients.

That was one of the factors driving Quad City Med Force's choice of the pNeuton S transport ventilator, from Airon Corp., for its EMS helicopter operations. The service, with bases in Colona, IL, and Burlington, IA, performs around 1,000 transports a year.

"The lighter your equipment is, the better off you are in a helicopter, and the bigger the patients you can take," says the service's chief flight nurse, Carol Zimmerman, RN. "The attractive thing about the pNeuton S is that it's small and lightweight. Those are big considerations. Some of these other units are extremely big and heavy and difficult to store. We have to be able to secure this equipment in flight."

Beyond its petite size (4" x 8" x 6") and weight (6 lbs.), the main attraction of the pNeuton S was its ability to deliver continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP). Quad City Med Force used other ventilators previously, but those lacked CPAP capability.

The pNeuton S uses the same CPAP system as its MACS (Mask CPAP System) counterpart from Airon. Additionally, the pNeuton S doesn't need batteries or electricity—it runs pneumatically. "So we don't have to worry about plug-ins for electrical power, batteries failing, things like that," Zimmerman notes. Med Force acquired one for each of its helicopters, plus a backup.

The pNeuton S comes with easy-to-use controls for tidal volume, respiratory rate and pressure limit for volume-targeted or pressure-limited ventilation. The training curve was comfortable, Zimmerman says, and when questions came up, Airon provided extensive assistance.

"All in all, it's been a very reliable vent for us," she says. "We're very pleased with the product."

For more information, visit www.AironUSA.com