

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

DIAPHRAGM PACING SYSTEM (DPS)

Combines surgically implanted electrodes and a lightweight battery-powered device to stimulate the diaphragm to contract, pull air into the lungs, and facilitate breathing. Electrodes are surgically implanted and eventually routed and connected to an external battery-powered pulse generating device. As an implanted medical device, the DPS requires monitoring for device malfunction or failure and infection. Manufacturer guidelines should be followed for safety restrictions or precautions specific to the device.

WARNING SIGNS

- Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Breathlessness
- Labored or absence of chest rise
- Cyanosis
- Pulse ox below limit of _____ %
- Device alarming

ESSENTIAL STEPS

1. Do not leave student unattended.
2. Verify that DPS cables are connected.
3. Notify the private duty nurse, if applicable.
4. Contact the school nurse/health room.
5. Administer breaths using ambu bag as needed for respiratory support.
6. Place student back on mechanical ventilator. Turn off DPS.
7. If school nurse or parent/guardian unavailable, call 911.

