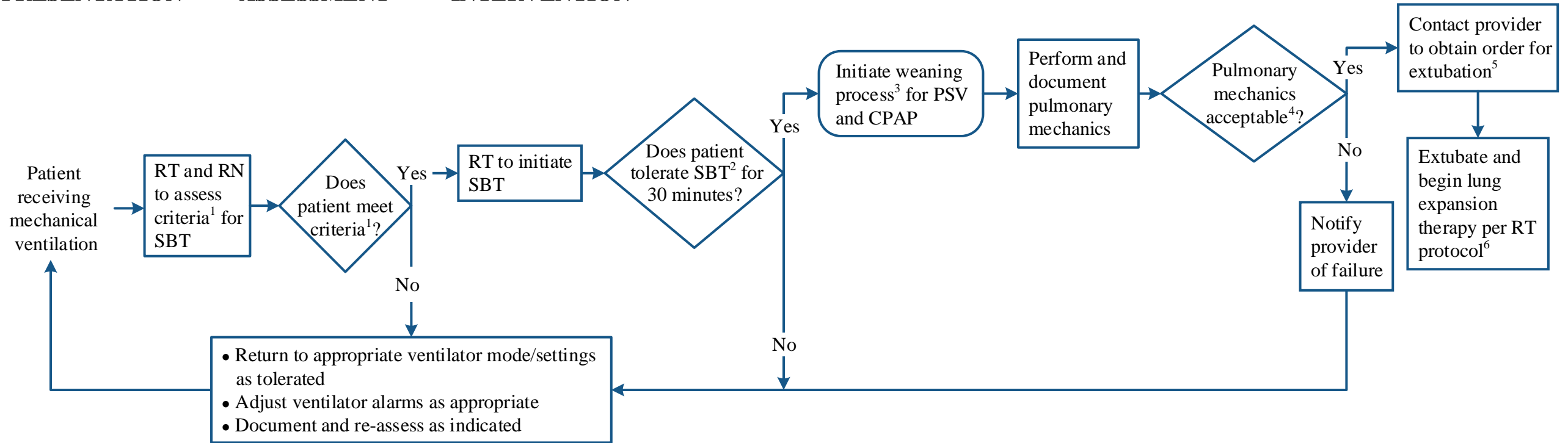


# Spontaneous Breathing Trial (SBT) and Mechanical Ventilation Weaning Process

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**PRESENTATION      ASSESSMENT      INTERVENTION**



CPAP = continuous positive airway pressure  
 RT = respiratory therapist

PSV = pressure support ventilation  
 SBT = spontaneous breathing trial

RN = registered nurse

<sup>1</sup> See [Appendix A: SBT Criteria](#)

<sup>2</sup> Signs of intolerance which would require termination of SBT include:

- Signs of dyspnea or fatigue
- SpO<sub>2</sub> < 90%
- Asynchronous or discordant respiratory pattern
- Use of accessory muscles
- Noted diaphoresis
- New onset of dysrhythmias
- Sustained HR > 20 bpm above baseline for 10 minutes

<sup>3</sup> See [Appendix B: Weaning Process](#)

<sup>4</sup> Acceptable pulmonary mechanics include: vital capacity ≥ 10 mL/kg, negative inspiratory force > -20 cm H<sub>2</sub>O and rapid shallow breathing index (RSBI) < 105. RSBI = ratio of respiratory frequency (f) to tidal volume (TV) (f/VT)

<sup>5</sup> If extubation orders are received from a non-critical care provider (*i.e.*, primary physician), the RT should notify the patient's critical care physician prior to the tube removal

<sup>6</sup> See Respiratory Therapy Departmental Protocol (#ATT3291)

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## APPENDIX A: SBT Criteria

Spontaneous Breathing Readiness Assessment shall be completed by RT and RN by 8:30 am (unless otherwise ordered)

**(All must be met in order to proceed with protocol)**

- Stable hemodynamics (MAP > 60 mmHg, HR < 120 bpm)
- No significant dysrhythmias (unless chronic). If patient has a dysrhythmia, contact ICU provider prior to proceeding with SBT.
- If patient is receiving vasopressor therapy, contact ICU provider prior to proceeding
- The most recent ABG values are as follows: pH > 7.28, PCO<sub>2</sub> < 60 mmHg (unless chronic), and PO<sub>2</sub> > 60 mmHg. If ABG not available, SpO<sub>2</sub> ≥ 92%.
- Temperature < 38.9°C
- Ventilator rate is set ≤ 20 bpm and spontaneous respiratory rate < 35 bpm
- Capability to breathe spontaneously
- FiO<sub>2</sub> ≤ 0.50
- PEEP ≤ 10 cm H<sub>2</sub>O
- Capable of lifting head off pillow
- RASS score +1 to -2 (see [Appendix C](#)). If RASS score < -2, discuss with ICU provider. RT to discuss with the RN, if sedation holiday is appropriate and if it has been performed.

MAP = mean arterial pressure  
ABG = arterial blood gas

PCO<sub>2</sub> = partial pressure of carbon dioxide  
PO<sub>2</sub> = partial pressure of oxygen

SpO<sub>2</sub> = arterial oxygen saturation  
FiO<sub>2</sub> = fraction of inspired oxygen

PEEP = positive end-expiratory pressure  
RASS = Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale

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## APPENDIX B: Weaning Process

- Change ventilator settings to PS mode or ventilation of 6 cm H<sub>2</sub>O and titrate PS to deliver tidal volume of 6-7 mL/kg of ideal body weight
- Monitor patient's respiratory status as appropriate

**Note: If there are signs of intolerance<sup>1</sup>, terminate weaning process and return to appropriate ventilator mode/settings, adjust alarms as appropriate and document**

- Once the weaning process has reached acceptable level (*i.e.*, PSV of 6 and acceptable spontaneous pulmonary mechanics<sup>2</sup>) consult the physician for extubation orders

**Note:** If extubation orders are received from a non-critical care provider (*i.e.*, primary physician), the RT should notify the patient's critical care physician prior to the tube removal

PS = pressure support    PSV = pressure support ventilation

<sup>1</sup> Signs of intolerance include:

- Signs of dyspnea or fatigue
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- Asynchronous or discordant respiratory pattern
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## APPENDIX C: Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale (RASS)

+4	Combative	Overly combative, violent, immediate danger to staff
+3	Very agitated	Pulls or removes tube(s) or catheter(s); aggressive
+2	Agitated	Frequent, non-purposeful movement, fights ventilator
+1	Restless	Anxious, but movements not aggressive or vigorous
0	Alert and calm	-
-1	Drowsy	Not fully alert, but has sustained awakening (eye-opening/eye contact) to voice (greater than or equal to 10 seconds)
-2	Light sedation	Briefly awakens with eye contact to voice (less than 10 seconds)
-3	Moderate sedation	Movement or eye openings to voice (but no eye contact)
-4	Deep sedation	No response to voice, but movement or eye opening to physical stimulation
-5	Unarousable	Unarousable

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## SUGGESTED READINGS

Departmental Protocol for Assessing Liberation from Mechanical Ventilation (#ATT3296)

Ely, E. W., Meade, M. O., Haponik, E. F., Kollef, M. H., Cook, D. J., Guyatt, G. H., & Stoller, J. K. (2001). Mechanical ventilator weaning protocols driven by nonphysician health-care professionals: Evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. *Chest Journal*, 120(6\_suppl), 454S-463S. doi:10.1378/chest.120.6\_suppl.454S

MacIntyre, N. R., Cook, D. J., Ely, E. W., Epstein, S. K., Fink, J. B., ... Heffner, J. E. (2001). Evidence-based guidelines for weaning and discontinuing ventilatory support: A collective task force facilitated by the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Association for Respiratory Care; and the American College of Critical Care Medicine. *Chest Journal*, 120(6\_suppl), 375S-396S. doi:10.1378/chest.120.6\_suppl.375s

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## DEVELOPMENT CREDITS

This practice consensus statement is based on majority expert opinion of the SBT and Mechanical Ventilation Weaning workgroup at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for the population. These experts included:

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