

## **P100 Elastomeric Masks and Source Control Masks – Information**

The P100 is a respirator with air-purifying cartridge that removes air contaminants through the air-purifying element.

These masks can be used in all clinical settings as they provide a high level of protection and fit. QHC and other health care facilities purchased these masks to afford the necessary protection for staff and physicians and will continue to do so when faced with the current supply chain challenges related to N95s.

The design of these masks provide for both an intake filter and an expiration valve that allows the person's exhaled breath to be exhausted.

With universal source control masking policies initiated at QHC, the P100 should only be used for airborne precautions and where all health care providers in the room are also masked. In the situations where all health care workers are wearing respirators in airborne precaution procedures there are no concerns with exhaled breath as each worker's respirator will filter inhalation.

Some hospitals have put surgical masks and specialized in house created filters over the exhalation valve but these options are not endorsed by 3M the manufacturer. If a patient is able to tolerate a mask when in airborne precautions that option should be considered however if performing an aerosol generating procedure, patients are likely supported with oxygen delivery masks and airway devices.

Important considerations:

*Does a P100 provide the same protection/filtration as an N95?*

- Yes, as per the CSA-Z94.4-18 –Selection, Use and Care of Respirators standard in Table 4 Hierarchy of Respirator Protection both the disposable N95 and P100s provide a Protection Factor (APF) of 10. The elastomeric face pieces have a wider selection of filters

*Does QHC provide for N95 or approved equivalent masks for AGMPs?*

- N95 procurement has continued to be challenging and consistent with directive #5 from Ontario Health, hospitals and health care facilities are to ensure that hospitals must provide regulated and unregulated health care

workers the most appropriate fit tested N95 or approved equivalent (P100) based on the Point of Care Risk Assessment. That continues to be our priority; to protect the staff and physicians during high risk exposure in the clinical setting.

*Do health care workers present a risk to patients when using P100 masks for AGMPs or other droplet precaution procedures?*

- Hospital staff and physicians have self-screened prior to commencing work and follow the strict requirements to protect each other and patients; masking, not attending work when ill or having symptoms of COVID-19 or other infections, distancing, hand hygiene, use of appropriate disinfectants and follow routine infection practices. The risks to patients are mitigated when these precautions are followed.

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