

# IS H<sub>2</sub>O A DRUG?

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**DEFINITION:** A drug is any substance other than food, that when **inhaled**, injected, smoked, consumed, absorbed via a patch on the skin, or dissolved under the tongue, causes a physiological change in the body.<sup>[1]</sup>

**INDICATIONS:** Prevent endotracheal tube occlusions, maintain mucocilliary clearance.



## Two Therapeutic Methods Compared:

	<b>ThermoFlo™</b>	<b>Heated Humidification</b>
<b>Dose</b>	>30mg H <sub>2</sub> O @20L Ve <sup>[3]</sup> Excess H <sub>2</sub> O provides no therapeutic benefit	>30 mg H <sub>2</sub> O @20L Ve <sup>[3]</sup> Excess H <sub>2</sub> O provides no therapeutic benefit
<b>Contraindications</b>	Bloody secretions, pulmonary edema, peep dependent	None
<b>Effects of Breaking Circuit</b>	Not shown to increase VAP	Shown to increase VAP
<b>Adverse Reports</b>	2 in 10 years, used from intubation to extubation	>800 / year <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Provides Consistent Therapy</b>	Automatic, non-adjustable, natural	No, adjustable parameters
<b>Possibility of under-humidification?</b>	Zero ET occlusions reported in 25+ years	Yes, if parameters are set incorrectly
<b>Possibility of over-humidification?</b>	No	Yes
<b>Cost</b>	< \$3.00 / day	Capital Equipment + \$\$\$ daily cost
<b>Ease of Use</b>	1 page of instruction	75+ page instruction manual
<b>Backorders</b>	<0.001% in 25+ years	Yes
<b>Ecological</b>	Yes, light weight	No, heavy, uses more natural resources ( <i>shipping</i> )
<b>Caregiver Exposure</b>	Clean, dry circuit, white bag disposal	Wet, considered contaminated. CPG recommends red bag. <sup>[3]</sup>

See relevant brochure for specification.

1.Wikipedia.com, 2.data on file, 3.Clinical Practice Guidelines

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