



Effective Health Care

Forced-Air Warmers Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Forced-air warming does not represent one of the priority conditions designated by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and therefore does not fall within the domain of the Effective Health Care Program. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
 - For more information on the priority conditions, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.
- The following guideline from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has some relevance to this nomination.
 - Clinical practice guideline: The management of inadvertent perioperative hypothermia in adults. April 2008. Available at <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/CG65Guidance.pdf>.

Topic Description

Nominator:	Individual
Nomination Summary:	The nominator requests information on the benefits and harms of using forced-air warming, specifically Bair Paws and Bair Hugger, in a perioperative setting. The nominator questions whether there is the potential for injury from these devices in certain populations, including hypermetabolic patients.
Key Questions from Nominator:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the difference between the Bair Hugger and Bair Paws?2. What are the risks and benefits of using the forced-air warmer in the perioperative patient?

Considerations

- The topic does not meet EHC Program appropriateness criteria. For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.
- Perioperative inadvertent hypothermia, defined as a fall in core body temperature below 36° C, occurs in the majority of surgical patients. This condition can result in many surgical complications, including increased blood loss, post-operative infections, and longer hospitalization time. One strategy to

counteract perioperative hypothermia is the use of forced-air warming, including the Bair Paws and Bair Hugger systems discussed in the nomination.