

## Protecta-Gel™ FAQ

**1. How do I clean the Protecta-Gel™?**

Using mild soap and water, apply the cleaning agent to the product, and clean thoroughly. Rinse off the soap, shaking off the excess water and place back in the original container. Allow to air dry.

**2. Why did the Protecta-Gel™ stop “sticking to my face”?**

To help maintain the “tackiness” make sure the Protecta-Gel™ is being washed in-between uses. Also make sure the face is clean upon application, free of make-up, dirt, and oils. The face must also be dry for proper application.

**3. When should I buy another Protecta-Gel™?**

It is recommended that the Protecta-Gel™ be replaced every 30 days (or approximately every month) when used with proper care.

**4. Can alcohol be used to clean the Protecta-Gel™?**

Minimal exposure with a low concentration of alcohol is acceptable (some hand sanitizers may be low in alcohol content, with an active ingredient of approximately 63% Ethyl Alcohol depending on the brand can be used). It may even cause the Protecta-Gel™ become more “tacky”. The Protecta-Gel™ is made of a mineral-based oil, therefore long exposure with high concentration of alcohol will dry and breakdown the gel. Protecta-Gel may have a gummier feel if alcohol is used several times, requiring soap and water for cleaning. Rubbing alcohol which has an active ingredient of 70% Isopropyl alcohol is NOT recommended. \*\* The Protecta-Gel™ may or may not last as long if alcohol based cleaners are used often, as mild soap and water is the recommended choice for cleaning this product.

**5. I have sensitive skin, can I still use the Protecta-Gel™?**

The Protecta-Gel™ is hypoallergenic and can be used for most skin types. The Protecta-Gel™ is Latex Free and made from a medical grade, mineral based gel which aims to improve comfort through its composition of natural ingredients.

**6. My patient is restless and moves around a lot, will the Protecta-Gel™ move?**

There is a chance that the Protecta-Gel™ will move and may need re-adjusting if a patient is restless and is constantly moving their head. The Protecta-Gel™ is not an adhesive. Adhesives tend to stick firmly to the skin, therefore, when it’s time to remove an adhesive product, it will also remove a thin layer of skin, which can increase the chances of developing HAPI (Hospital Acquired Pressure Injury). For that reason, we do not recommend an adhesive type product, to prevent non-invasive ventilation (NIV) mask interface related wounds. Unlike those adhesive products, the Protecta-Gel™ is a mineral-based gel that aims to improve the skin. The “tackiness” of the gel is what keeps it in place. The “tackiness” is ONLY effective if the patient’s face is clean (especially the nasal bridge, nose and cheek bone area) and free of oils, lotions, dirt, and make-up. Once the face is cleaned and dry, the Protecta-Gel™ should have no problem staying on the patient’s face along with a properly fitted mask interface.

**7. Why else would the Protecta-Gel™ slip off the face?**

Sometimes, the Protecta-Gel™ will slip if the face was not prepped correctly and the mask was not fitted correctly. Other reasons would be if the patient is diaphoretic (due to a fever, anxious, pain, etc.), this excessive sweating can cause the Protecta-Gel™ to slip or slide down the patient’s face. Simply clean and dry the patients face, re-adjust the Protecta-Gel™ and monitor the patient.

**8. Any other recommendations?**

It could be helpful during your routine “BiPAP mask break” to inspect the skin and re-adjust the Protecta-Gel™ to ensure proper placement. Most mask interface companies recommend periodic “air breaks” from the mask to allow blood to return to the capillaries, this will be a good time to do any adjustments and inspect the skin.

