Correspondance:
When I did the presentation on VAE last week, someone had a question about what to record as minimum PEEP or Fi02 if the pt was being weaned and the PEEP dropped to 0 only for a short period of time (eg 15 min).  I emailed this question to NHSN and here is there response.  Also, I'm attaching an audit tool our facility uses for collecting VAE data.  Feel free to share with your members and edit as needed.

Hello Shilla,

Please refer to the document titled: Updated March  2013 Update to VAE Frequently Asked Questions that can be found on the VAE web page:  <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/acute-care-hospital/vae/index.html>   under the FAQ section and also attached. The posting of this document was communicated to NHSN users in the April 2013 NHSN Newsletter. In this document you will want to specifically review questions #3 and #6.

In the example you have provided, the daily minimum PEEP would be 0. Please note that the VAE surveillance protocol specifies to use the daily minimum FiO2 and PEEP values when assessing for both the period of stability or improvement and the period that indicates worsening oxygenation. From the multiple readings that will be documented each calendar day, **you will identify the minimum (i.e., lowest) value for that calendar day (even if the patient was only able to tolerate the setting or a short time).** Zero values are included in the selection of the lowest value.