



**RANCHO LOS AMIGOS NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER**  
Occupational Therapy and Recreation Therapy Department

**RANCHO LOS AMIGOS**  
NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

<b>SUBJECT: Aquatic Therapy Program Pool Safety Rules and Regulations</b>	<b>Policy No.:</b>	<b>320</b>
	<b>Revised:</b>	<b>August 2022</b>
	<b>Supersedes:</b>	<b>February 2019</b>
	<b>Page:</b>	<b>1 of 2</b>

**PURPOSE:**

To provide safe environment to perform aquatic therapeutic activities.

**POLICY:**

Aquatic Therapy Program Pool Safety Rules and Regulations

**PROCEDURE:**

1. No patients or visitors are allowed in the pool area or in the pool without staff present.
2. No patients may be in the pool area or in the pool without immediate supervision at all times.
3. Caregivers are only allowed at poolside or in the pool if they have an active role in participating in the session. It is the aquatic therapy staff who will decide on if a caregiver may or may not participate in the session.
4. Patients 3 years of age and up are allowed to participate in aquatic therapy sessions if deemed appropriate by referring or treating therapist.
5. An assigned aquatic therapy staff member must always be on deck when the pool is occupied. **Two (2) staff members minimum are required on deck during treating hours. At least one staff member must be certified in Basic Water Rescue training and have a general pool orientation competency on file. Any treating therapist without a general pool orientation competency and Basic Water Safety training must document in therapy notes that the second staff member on deck has the specified requirements per policy.**
6. Patient with open wounds or infections are not allowed in the pool.
7. No outside equipment or loose items may be brought into the pool without permission from the treating Occupational/Recreation Therapist.
8. Any personal items brought into the pool area are the responsibility of the patient.
9. It is the responsibility of the patient (with caregiver assist if necessary) to dry off completely before leaving the facility.
10. The Lift System is to be used by one patient at a time to enter or exit the pool. Only trained staff members are to use the Lift System when patients enter and exit the pool.
11. All patients must shower/rinse off before entering the pool.
12. Pool attire is to include a bathing suit or swim trunks or a shirt and shorts. Cotton material attire is not permitted in the pool.
13. Water shoes may be used in the pool if they are strictly used in water and not on land as street shoes.
14. Any patients with decreased motor control or sensory loss of the feet will be required to wear protective footwear in the pool. This will be determined by the treating therapist. No street shoes will be allowed in the pool.



**RANCHO LOS AMIGOS NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER**  
Occupational Therapy and Recreation Therapy Department

**RANCHO LOS AMIGOS**  
NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

<b>SUBJECT: Aquatic Therapy Program Pool Safety Rules and Regulations</b>	<b>Policy No.:</b>	<b>320</b>
	<b>Revised:</b>	<b>August 2022</b>
	<b>Supersedes:</b>	<b>February 2019</b>
	<b>Page:</b>	<b>2 of 2</b>

**PROCEDURE (CON'T):**

15. If at any time the patient is deemed unsafe to participate in aquatic therapy, the patient and medical provider will be notified.
16. Refer to Rancho Policy & Procedure Admin – B812 Code Blue 2017 and B812.1 Rapid Response Team.
17. In the incidence of a fecal/emesis, all patients must immediately exit the pool. The procedure is outlined in the Rancho OT/RT Policy & Procedure No. (P&P) 321 and will be followed to clean the pool after a fecal/emesis incident. The pool will be reopened according to the guidelines in the P&P 321.
18. Pool will be inspected daily by observation. Visual inspection will be performed by assigned staff.
19. Pool chemical levels will be checked daily, twice a day. Chemical levels will be logged in the pool log every time they are checked. Chemical level checks will be performed by assigned staff.
20. For detailed description of pool maintenance and chemical level check procedure please refer to Pool Maintenance Guidelines. Pool Maintenance Guidelines are in the Physical Therapy Department's SharePoint, on the DHS Rancho intranet site.

**REFERENCE(S)/AUTHORITY:**

Rancho Policy & Procedure Admin – B812 Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation Code Blue 2017  
Rancho Policy & Procedure Admin - B812.1 Rapid Response Team  
Physical Therapy (PT) Pool Maintenance Guidelines (SharePoint)