



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center PHYSICAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

AQUATIC THERAPY PROGRAM: POOL SAFETY RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

Policy No.: 509
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PURPOSE:

To provide a safe environment to perform aquatic therapeutic activities

PROCEDURES:

1. No patients or visitors are allowed in the pool area or in the pool without appropriately trained staff present.
2. No patients may be in the pool area or in the pool without immediate supervision by a trained staff member at all times.
3. Caregivers are only allowed in the pool area if they have an active role participating in the session. It is at the discretion of the Aquatic therapy staff to determine if a caregiver may or may not participate in the session.
4. An assigned aquatic therapy staff member must be on deck at all times when the pool is occupied. **Two (2) staff members minimum are required on in treatment area during treating hours. At least one staff member has to be certified in Basic Water Rescue.**
5. Patients with open wounds (without an occlusive dressing and physician clearance) or known infections are not allowed in the pool.
6. All required infection control protocols will be followed by all participants and staff based on the most current safety practices.
7. No outside equipment or loose items may be brought into the pool without permission from the treating physical 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 as 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 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.
15. If at any time the patient is deemed unsafe to participate in aquatic physical therapy, the patient, the primary therapist and physician will be notified.
16. Refer to policy B812.1 for Code Assist and B812 for Code Blue.
17. In the event of a fecal incident or vomiting, all patients must immediately exit the pool. The procedure outlined in policy and procedure (P&P) #608 will be followed to clean the pool after a fecal or vomit incident. The pool will be reopened according to the guidelines in the P&P #608.


Director, Physical Therapy Department