



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

PROCEDURE FOR MAINTAINING POOL AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

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PURPOSE: To ensure the aquatic chemical and temperature environment is safe for aquatic therapy activities.

POLICY:

1. Pool chlorine, PH, alkaline, hardness, acid and temperature levels are checked at minimum twice daily. Once in the morning and once in the afternoon.
2. Pool will be inspected daily by observation
3. If unusual color, odor, or substance are noted in the pool at any time during therapy, the water chemicals will be tested prior to admittance of an individual into the water.
4. Step-by-step procedures are posted with the test kit detailing how to check the pool chemicals to ensure they are within acceptable ranges.
5. The procedures are called the "Pool Maintenance Guidelines." Refer to the Pool Maintenance Guidelines located with the testing supplies for the current testing process.
6. If the chemical level or temperatures vary from the recommended ranges, the pool will be closed and the contracted vendor (e.g. Pacifica Pools) will be called immediately to provide service.
7. Pool will re-open when the chemical levels and temperature are within normal ranges.


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- B. In all other disaster and emergency situations, employees are to follow procedures described under “Emergency Procedures”, Policy #502 in this manual and in the Medical Center’s Fire/Disaster & Safety manual, and use their best judgment for their personal safety.
- C. Training is provided during the orientation period on the use of the equipment in the treatment area. (Refer to Policy #201 on Orientation and Training of Staff: Equipment Competencies.) If an employee is transferred to another area or new equipment is introduced, orientation is provided at that time.
- D. Protocols are established for the use of potentially dangerous equipment such as band saws and appropriate protective gear is provided. (Refer to Policy #201, Orientation and Training of Staff: Equipment Usage & Safety Training.)
- E. All members of the physical therapy staff who provide direct patient care are required to maintain current certification as a Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) rescuer by attending a hospital course on CPR and receive certification according to standards set by the American Heart Association. (Refer to Policy #211.)
- F. Monthly safety meetings are held in the treatment areas.
1. The Physical Therapy Department Record of Inservice Training Sheet (Attachment A) is used to document attendance. The original is filed in the area safety manual, one copy is sent to P.T. Education, and one to the Safety Officer via the Physical Therapy Department Safety representative.
 2. Examples of topics covered are:
 - Safety of Patients and Employees
 - Electrical Safety
 - CPR
 - Earthquake Preparedness
 - Disaster Planning

Failure to comply with safety rules may result in disciplinary action.


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