



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
CLINICAL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: PATIENT SAFETY

Policy No.: C130
Effective Date: 05/1999
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Purpose: To reduce the risk of injury to patients, staff, and visitors.

Performed By: All Staff

Physician Order Required: No

Policy Statements:

1. An ongoing assessment will be done to determine patient's safety needs.
2. Based on patient's individual safety needs, specific safety devices will be implemented as part of an interdisciplinary patient care approach.
3. All medical devices equipped with alarms (e.g. IV pumps, ventilators) must be operating and audible when in use.

Equipment/Safe Patient Handling (e.g., side rails, restraints, alarm systems, lifts)

A. Call Light Systems

1. The call light system will be within patient reach at all times.
2. The need for a standard or alternative access device compatible with the patient's functional ability is determined by the RN at the time of admission and as the patient's needs change.

Key point: The specific access device to be used will be assessed in consultation with Occupational Therapy. Examples of alternative access devices include: sensitive to touch call light; or "sip and puff" call light.

3. Whenever a call light system is not available for patients use (due to an emergency or lack of appropriate equipment), a patient-appropriate, alternative call light device will be temporarily provided. Examples of alternative methods include but are not limited to:
 - frequent contact with patient (at least every 15 minutes)
 - constant observation
 - grouping patients with same needs
 - buzzers or bells placed within reach
4. Malfunctioning devices are to be removed from patient care area, red tagged, and reported to Bio-Med immediately.
5. Priority status will be programmed in the call light system for patients who require an immediate response (e.g. ventilator dependent).

B. Pediatric Specific Considerations – refer to Nursing Clinical P/P #C130.10 "Infant and Child Safety"

C. Safety during Transport or Transfer

1. Confirm patient using two patient identifiers and ensure privacy during transfer and transport.
2. Determine appropriate equipment to use when transferring patient.
2. Side rails must be raised at all times when transporting a patient by gurney.

3. Wheels of beds, gurneys or wheelchairs must be engaged when transferring patient's in to or out of wheeled equipment.
 4. Patients using prone gurneys for mobility will be secured on the gurney using an appropriate device, (e.g. soft tie).
- D. Patient Identification
1. Use at least two patient identifiers when providing care, treatment, and services.
Key point: Patient identifier includes patient's name and Medical Record Number (MRN) or Birthdate. When patients have the same name, the MRN and birthdate will be used to accurately identify the patient.
 2. Patient identification band will be legible at all times. Nursing staff are responsible to check that patients have a legible identification band on at the beginning of each shift and as needed.
- E. Critical Lab Values - refer to Hospital Administrative Policy and Procedure B856
- F. Medication Safety - refer to Nursing Policy C152 - Medication Management Guidelines

Additional patient safety reference materials can be found in the Hospital Administrative Manual (e.g. Patient Safety Plan, Behavior Response Team and Elopement policies, and in the Hospital Safety Manual.

Revised By: Roumayne David, BSN, RN

References:

Bergman, R. & De Jesus O. (2021, October). Patient Care Transfer Techniques. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK564305/?report=classic>

Rancho Los Amigos. (2017). Hospital Administrative Policy and Procedure Manual B856 Reporting of Critical Laboratory Test, and Critical Results or Values and Significant Medical Imaging or Diagnostic Laboratory Results.

Rancho Los Amigos. (2022). Nursing Clinical Policy and Procedure Manual, Policy C152 Medication Management

The Joint Commission. (2021) Hospital: 2022 National Patient Safety Goals. Retrieve from <https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/national-patient-safety-goals/hospital-national-patient-safety-goals/>

05/99 – Revised
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