



# Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

## DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

### CLINICAL

### POLICY AND PROCEDURE

**SUBJECT:** INFANT AND CHILD SAFETY

**Policy No.:** C130.10

**Effective Date :** 04/1999

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**Purpose of Procedure:** To outline how to provide a safe environment for infants and children.

**Performed By:** All Hospital Staff and Visitors

**Policy Statement:**

1. All infants and children admitted to Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center will be provided with a safe environment.
2. Bed Safety
  - A. All infants and children shall be placed in a bed appropriate to their age, medical/emotional condition, and care needs.
  - B. As a general guideline, infants and children under three (3) years of age are placed in cribs. Children three (3) and over are placed in a regular hospital bed.  
**KEY POINT:** These guidelines may be adjusted based on the patient's cognitive level, emotional level, medical condition, and developmental stage.
  - C. Patients in cribs that are able to stand up will be placed in a crib with a plastic side extender.
  - D. Bed and crib side rails must be up at all times except when the patient is receiving direct care. If crib side rails are in a down position, hand contact with the child must be maintained at all times.
  - E. Small toys or items must not be placed in cribs because of choking hazards. Patient call light should not be attached to crib. Any medical-electrical equipment utilized in the unit must be maintained well out of reach of all infants and children.
3. Wanderguard
  - A. Patients younger than 13 years old, or those under the age of 18 and diagnosed with a cognitive impairment, must have Wanderguard initiated upon admission (Refer to Administrative Policy A423 *Infant and Pediatric Security, and Abduction Prevention and Response*, and Administrative Policy B707 *Patient Elopement*).
  - B. Nursing:
    - i. Register patients into the system (take and upload patient photo)
    - ii. Apply tag and mounting bands.
    - iii. Suspend alarms (for diagnostics and therapies).
  - C. Therapies:
    - i. Communicate when a patient is escorted off unit (to coordinate alarm suspending) & verify alarm suspension length of time.
    - ii. Notify the unit to extend alarm suspension if the patient will be off the unit longer than expected.
    - iii. Communicate when a patient is returned to unit (to verify patient alarms are resumed).
  - D. Security:
    - i. Monitor console & alarms.
    - ii. Attempt to locate wandering patient (follow departmental protocols).

- iii. Communicate with nursing unit staff status/location of wandering patient.
4. Hazardous Substances
    - A. **Safety Data Sheets (SDS):** A **Safety Data Sheet** (SDS) contains data regarding the properties of a particular substance. The SDS is available on Rancho's SharePoint under the SDS icon and the Nursing Resource Office maintains a binder. In the event of ingestion/contact with a substance, refer to the relevant SDS.
    - B. **Poison Control Center:** In the event of suspected poisoning, notify physician immediately, call a Code Rapid Response and/or a Code White, and contact the California Poison Control Center at (800) 222-1222, as needed.
  5. Equipment Safety
    - A. All children must be directly observed when using equipment such as strollers, walkers, feeding tables, etc.
    - B. No glass drinking containers are to be used; scissors or other sharp objects should not be at bedside.
    - C. All licensed nurses are to ensure proper ventilator functioning and accurate settings. Alarms are to be operational at all times and responded to immediately.
    - D. All portable suction machines must be checked for proper functioning prior to use.
    - E. Malfunctioning systems/devices are to be reported to Biomedical engineering immediately.
    - F. All call lights are within patient reach at all times (except cribs).
  6. Patient/Family/Visitor Education
    - A. All patients/family members/visitors for pediatric patients will be instructed on the policy regarding patient bed, wheelchair – including speed and maneuvering of chair, environmental safety, and the Wanderguard System.
    - B. Patients with ventilators will have specific educational objectives documented and return demonstration will be required prior to unsupervised visits with the patient both on and off the unit (see Hospital Administrative Policy B827 - *Therapeutic Pass*).
    - C. Additional patient safety reference materials can be found in the Hospital Administrative Policy and Procedure (example: Smoking, Suicide Precautions, Falls and Patient Injury Prevention, Elopement and Child Abduction policies) and in the Hospital Safety Policy and Procedure (information on fire and disaster safety)..
  7. Documentation
    - A. Initial patient/parent/guardian/significant other instruction regarding bed and environmental safety will be documented in the electronic health record (EHR).
    - B. Ventilator settings will be documented in the EHR.
    - C. All patient and family education will be documented on the Patient Education section of the EHR.

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**Reviewed by:** Elizabeth Thompson, BSN, RN

**References:**

Hockenberry, M. J. & Wilson, D.(2018). *Wong's Nursing Care of Infants and Children*. (11th ed.). St Louis,MO: Elsevier

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Nursing Clinical Policy and Procedure. (2022). C130: *Patient Safety*

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Administrative Policy and Procedure. (2022). A423:*Infant and Pediatric Security and Abduction Prevention and Response*

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Administrative Policy and Procedure.  
( 2021 ). B707: *Patient Elopement*

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(2021). A405: *Hazardous Materials/Waste Management Program*

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04/99 – Revised  
05/02 – Revised  
05/06 – Revised  
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