

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

NUMBER: 3263

VERSION: 3

SUBJECT/TITLE: PEDIATRIC PATIENT SAFETY POLICY

POLICY: All Department of Emergency Medicine (DEM) staff will identify and support a culture of safety and lead efforts to eliminate avoidable harm for the pediatric patient.

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines that identify and eliminate unsafe situations/conditions and promote a culture of safety and a secure environment for the pediatric patient.

DEPARTMENTS: Emergency Medicine, Emergency Medicine Nursing

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE: Guidelines

1. Ambulating
 - a. Children must wear shoes, slippers or footed pajamas if ambulating in the ED.
 - b. Children are not to be in the halls without a doctor, nurse, auxiliary member, student or parent present.
2. Beds
 - a. Beds are to be checked for proper function and safety prior to placing patient in them.
 - b. Beds are to be equipped with side-rails that lock.
3. Side-Rails
 - a. Side-rails on adult-sized gurneys must be up at all times unless a nurse, parent, and/or physician is in direct attendance.

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4. Glass Bottles
 - a. Formula and juice glass bottles are not to be left in the crib. The formula or juice should be poured into a plastic infant bottle if possible. If glass bottle is used, it must be removed after usage.
 - b. Infants are to be held for feedings.
5. Eating
 - a. No child should be left unsupervised while he is eating. Peanuts and small candies should not be permitted near a child to prevent accidental insertion in nose or ear. Nursing personnel, parents, auxiliary or ancillary personnel must be in attendance for all feedings.
6. Pillows
 - a. The possibility of smothering is always present with small children, especially infants.
 - b. Pillows, if used, should be firm and offer support.
 - c. Light plastic wrappings should NEVER be permitted on sheets and pillows.
7. Safety Pins
 - a. Olive View-UCLA Medical Center uses only disposable diapers with tabs.
8. Scales
 - a. Nursing personnel weighing child will hold hand over child to prevent him/her from moving off scale.
9. Sharp Objects
 - a. No sharp, pointed objects are to be given to the child.
 - b. No sharp objects are to be left where a child can grasp those including oral and rectal thermometers, intravascular catheter needles, or blood drawing needles.

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10. Balloons
 - a. Balloons or gloves inflated with air will not be allowed in the Emergency Department as there is a risk of aspiration in young children.
11. Electric Cords
 - a. All electrical cords must be checked routinely for defects by the Maintenance Department.
 - b. Electrical cords are not to be in contact with wet surfaces.
12. Heat and Steam
 - a. Children should be protected from contact with steam lines or other hot piping.
 - b. Children receiving heat treatments of any kind (pads, lamps or other) should be kept under continuous supervision.
13. Trash
 - a. Trash containers will have covered lids and will not be propped open at any time.
14. Medication Administration and Safety
 - a. Licensed staff will follow all hospital policies and procedures relating to medication administration.
 - b. Injection sites should be proper for age and type of solution.
 - c. Arm boards will be used for infants with IV's.
 - i. Fingers and toes must be visualized to check circulation.
14. Discharge and Transportation
 - a. For the safety of the child and the parents, children will be discharged directly only to parents or legal guardians.
 - b. Other arrangements must be approved by written permission from the parents or guardians or by prior approval by the hospital or Nursing Administration.

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- c. Children will be discharged/transported in appropriate vehicle for age.
 - Wheelchair with safety belt
 - Parent's arms
 - Parent's lap in wheelchair
 - Gurney
 - Stroller
 - Car seat or Booster seat

References:	
Approved by: Dellone Pascascio (Chief Nursing Officer), Georgia Foot'e-Sam (Clinical Nurse Director II), Gregory Moran (Chief Physician), Joselin Escobar Duran (Assistant Hospital Administrator II), Maureen Mccollough (Physician Specialist, M.D. Emergency Room)	Date: 12/22/2016
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