

**VALLEYCARE**  
**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS**  
**DEPARTMENT: FACILITIES**  
**POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 713**  
**VERSION: 1**

**SUBJECT/TITLE: POLICY ON MANAGING BIOLOGICAL AGENTS IN AEROSOLIZING WATER SYSTEMS**

**POLICY:** It is the policy of Valley Care to maintain and operate all equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and safe manner. Equipment that operates with water that can be aerosolized (e.g., cooling tower, faucets, shower, fountains) may become contaminated with potentially infectious biological agents even though the equipment is operated within the manufacture's guidelines. Regular maintenance and cleaning of the equipment and proper treatment of the water will be performed to ensure that the risks of hazards are minimized to the staff, patients and visitors of ValleyCare.

**PURPOSE:**

**DEPARTMENTS: FACILITIES**

**DEFINITIONS:**

**PROCEDURE:**

- A. Treatment and General Cleaning**  
Cooling towers, water display fountains, and other open water systems that can generate aerosols shall have a maintenance program that includes routine cleaning of the water reservoir and piping systems. The maintenance shall be conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and appropriate cleaning instructions. When necessary, make up water should be provided from the normal water service system. Open-water systems that have been out of service for an extended period of time shall be thoroughly cleaned before being returned to service.
- B. Treatment**  
The water treatment program should include the routine application of the appropriate biocide treatment agents designed to eliminate and control biological agents and other contaminants that can accumulate from exposure to the open atmosphere. During the application of treatment and cleaning agents, the appropriate PPR shall be worn.
- C. Documentation**  
Routine maintenance and treatment procedures of cooling tower and other

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open water systems shall be recorded. Date of service, service and treatment provided and personnel conducting the service shall be recorded. Maintenance and cleaning of open water or potable water systems that have been out of service for an extended period to time shall also be documented.

**D. Staff Training**

Staff members responsible for the water treatment program will be trained during orientation and receive appropriate training thereafter regarding proper cleaning and maintenance procedures, and the safe handling and proper application of water treatment and cleaning chemicals. All guidelines for handling hazardous material and the recommendations for proper use of PPE will be presented.

References:	
Approved by: Robert Ross (Director, Facilities)	Date: 08/12/2009
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