



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

OPERATING ROOM

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: OBSERVERS IN THE OPERATING ROOM

Policy No.: OR57
Supersedes: ALL
Reviewed Date: 01/2016
Page: 1 of 2

Policy Statement: Observers will be allowed in the O.R. without compromising patient privacy and safety.

Purpose of Procedure: To protect the privacy of the patient and decrease potential for infection in the surgical patient.

Policy Guidelines:

1. RLANRC STAFF OR STUDENTS

The surgical consent obtained prior to surgery authorizes observation by RLANRC staff or students for education purposes.

Registered Nurses may request to observe by notifying the operating room control desk. Permission must be obtained from the Attending Surgeon and the Nurse Manager or her designee.

Nursing, physical and occupational therapy students may observe relevant surgeries. Their immediate supervisor must obtain permission from the Attending Surgeon and the Nurse Manager or her designee.

2. NON-RLANRC STAFF OR STUDENTS

Observers who are not members of RLANRC programs are required to sign a responsibility release witnessed by the sponsoring physician. The release is directed to the Risk Management Administrator.

KEY POINT: Non RLANRC staff or students will not be allowed to scrub surgical procedures.

Physicians who are not members of a RLANRC or L.A. County program may observe in the operating room by obtaining permission from the service chief physician. The service coordinator will verify the permission and notify the operating room staff.

Registered nurses from other institutions and nursing schools will submit their credentials to be kept by the education department. When permission is granted, the Nurse Manager will be notified by the education department a list of rotating nurses and schedules.

KEY POINT: Only 2 observers will be allowed into the operating room at a time. No nurses will be allowed to scrub procedures.

Medical students and/or physicians, who are not members of a RLANRC program, may observe in the operating room with a staff or resident physician from the service functioning as their sponsor. The sponsoring physician is responsible for the student's behavior and adherence to policies and procedures.

KEY POINT: Non RLANRC medical students and/or physicians will not be allowed to scrub surgical procedures.

3. MANUFACTURER REPRESENTATIVES AND ENGINEERS

Manufacturer representatives and engineers will be permitted to observe in the operating room when the Attending Physician deems it necessary and with the patient signed consent.

4. RELATIVES OF PATIENTS

Relatives of the patient will not be allowed to be present in the operating room during the surgical procedure. This policy also applies when the relative is a physician, nurse or other health care professional. **Exception** - A family member may be permitted in the operating room at the discretion of the Attending surgeon if the patient is having a regional or local anesthetic and there are no appropriate hospital translators available to translate during surgery.

Reviewed by:

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References:

Medical Staff Rules and Regulations

04/06 – Reviewed

09/10 - Reviewed

12/12 - Reviewed

01/16 - Reviewed