Name of Policy: Smoke Evacuation During Laser and ESU Procedures

Policy Number: 3364-124-62

Department: Nursing Service/Operating Room

Approving Officer: Associate Vice President/Associate Executive Director

Responsible Agent: Administrator, Surgical Services

Scope: Operating Room/Perioperative Services

Effective Date: 8/20/2008

Initial Effective Date: 3/1993

New policy proposal
Minor/technical revision of existing policy
Major revision of existing policy
Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy Statement

A smoke evacuation system shall be used whenever the potential for producing smoke accompanies a surgical procedure; this includes but is not limited to procedures utilizing lasers and electrosurgical units (ESU).

(B) Purpose of Policy

To provide a safe environment for all present by ensuring the removal of any smoke generated during electrosurgical and laser procedures.

(C) Procedure

1. A smoke evacuation unit shall be used in each laser or electrosurgical procedure. Regular suction tubing and canisters may be used during laryngoscopy procedures.

2. For cases where fluid will be present, use the smoke evacuation system with a small evacuator suction bottle on side of machine. Use extension tubing from filter to suction container. Regular wall suction will be used to provide vacuum to suction container.

3. Hold the smoke evacuation suction tube in close proximity (less than 1" or 2 cm away) to the tissue interaction site to remove as much plume as possible.

4. Filters should be changed in the smoke evacuator according to recommendations. Smoke evacuation canisters may be reused until red warning lights are completely lit up. Full canister is to be capped and discarded in red bag biohazard waste bag.

Approved by:

Edwin Hall
Administrator, Surgical Services

Norma Tomlinson, RN, MSN, CNA
Associate Vice President/Associate Executive Director

Review/Revision Date:
7/96
7/99
7/02
4/05
8/20/2008

Next Review Date: 8/1/2011

Policies Superseded by This Policy: 4-62

It is the responsibility of the reader to verify with the responsible agent that this is the most current version of the policy.