

NURSING SERVICE GUIDELINES GENERAL

Guideline: Safety - pediatrics

Policy Number Superseded: 3364-110-12-03



Responsibility:

Purpose of Guidelines: To provide guidelines for promotion of a safe environment and the prevention of accidents for any hospitalized child/adolescent.

Effective Date:

February 24, 2026

Initial Effective Date:

February 24, 2026

An environment that will minimize the stress and anxiety of children, adolescents and their families in the medical setting is necessary to achieve an acceptable standard of patient safety and quality in the provision of care for the pediatric patient.

Procedure:

- (A) Compliance with established institutional safety guidelines is recognized as the responsibility of all nursing service employees. All items used in the pediatric room shall meet certain specifications related to patient safety and infection control requirements.
- (B) A barrier free environment will be maintained by securing appropriate locations for wheelchairs, IVs, stretchers, etc. All loose cords will be tied in order to prevent tripping.
- (C) All doors to areas that are unsupervised and provide risk to patients will be kept closed at all times.
- (D) The admitting nurse will explain safety regulations, specific to pediatrics, to all parents and/or guardians upon admission.

PROCEDURE	POINTS OF EMPHASIS
1. All pediatric patients will be placed in designated pediatric rooms. All electrical outlets will be covered with an outlet plug. Net-beds are available for children who are developmentally delayed and medically require use of net-beds.	To provide continuity of care and reduce risk of abduction.
2. Identification (ID) bands and allergy bands are to be on patient's extremity with correct and legible information.	To prevent accidental treatment or medication errors.
3. Parents will be given a wrist ID band to wear that matches their child's hospital ID band.	To identify parents and ensure appropriate visitation and discharge.
4. A password should be established for receiving information by phone if deemed necessary.	
5. Children should be kept on unit (or supervised by personnel) unless written order by physician.	
6. Instruct parents/family to notify caregiver when patient will be unattended.	To maintain patient safety.
7. Instruct family members not to bring in or give their child medication unless requested by caregiver.	These include outpatient prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, herbs, or food supplement.
8. Assess immunization status on admission.	
9. Determine if patient has any allergies to medication, food or seasonal on admission.	
10. Educate patient and/or family on the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction when administering a new medication.	Allergic reactions include: itching or hives, and swelling of the face or hands. Patient may also have swelling or tingling of the mouth or throat, chest tightness, and trouble breathing.
11. Pediatric patients will not ambulate alone with an IV pole or other	

hospital equipment in tow (e.g. oxygen tank, wound vac, etc.).	
12. All hospital beds/stretchers will remain in lowest position when not providing care. Three of the four side rails will be properly maintained.	Prevent injury from falls or entrapment.
13. Ensure call light and other necessary items are within patient's reach.	
14. All patients are to wear shoes or slippers with rubber soles while ambulating.	To prevent accidental slipping, spreading of germs, or accidental trauma to feet.
15. All patients are to have hospital gowns/pajamas that do not drag on the ground.	To prevent slips or trips while out of bed.
16. Corrective lens/contacts are to be worn (if applicable) when patient is out of bed.	Unless contraindicated to medical condition and/or treatment (e.g. eye injury).
17. Overhead lighting and night lights are to be available in order to provide optimal sight ability while out of bed.	
18. Proper isolation technique (if applicable) will be maintained with appropriate signs posted.	Prevent spread of infection.
19. All staff shall be educated on Code Adam and Code Adam drills will periodically be conducted by security.	Campus Police conduct Code Adam drills on an annual basis.
20. A Pediatric Braslow Cart will be kept on 6AB for emergency equipment. A Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certified registered nurse will be available 24 hours, seven days a week and will be utilized to assist in the care for this population of patients.	Contact the House Supervisor at extension 5003 for a dedicated PALS RN if one is not available on the nursing unit.

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4

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Review/Revision Date:
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February 24, 2029