

Nursing Service Guideline General



- Title:** SAFETY OF PEDIATRIC PATIENTS
- Responsibility:** Hospital Personnel
- Purpose:** To provide a standard that will ensure patients receive treatment in a safe, secure, nurturing and compassionate environment.
- Specific Notes:** 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.

<u>Procedure</u>	<u>Point of Emphasis</u>
1. All pediatric patients shall be placed in designated pediatric rooms.	To provide continuity of care and reduce risk of abduction.
2. Identification (ID) bands and allergy bands are to be on patients extremity with correct information and legible.	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. Assess immunization status on admission.	
7. Determine if patient has any allergies to medication, food or seasonal on admission.	
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. All hospital beds/stretchers will remain in lowest position when not providing care.	Prevent injury from falls.
11. Three of the four side rails will be properly maintained.	Prevent injury from falls or entrapment.

<u>Procedure</u>	<u>Point of Emphasis</u>
12. All equipment wheels will remain locked when not in use.	Hospital beds, wheelchairs, stretchers, etc.
13. 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.
14. All patients are to have hospital gowns/pajamas that do not drag on the ground.	To prevent slips or trips while out of bed.
15. Call light within reach.	Ensure patient understands purpose of call light and performs proper functionality.
16. Ensure necessary items are within patient's reach.	To prevent spills and injury from falls.
17. 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).
18. Overhead lighting and night lights are to be available for patients ease to see while out of bed.	
19. Encourage patient and/or family to notify staff immediately if a spill occurs or is located.	
20. Hospital environment will remain clear of objects that may block the patient's pathway.	
21. All loose cords will be tied up to minimize tripping.	Prevent injury from falls.
22. Pediatric patients will not ambulate alone with an IV pole or other hospital equipment in tow (e.g. oxygen tank, wound vac, etc.).	
23. Instruct parents/family to notify caregiver when patient will be unattended.	To maintain patient safety.
24. Inappropriate objects are to be kept out of reach of children (e.g. needle boxes, medications, antiseptic wipes, etc.)	
25. Proper isolation technique (if applicable) will be maintained with appropriate signs posted.	Prevent spread of infection.
26. 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.
27. 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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Reviewed by Policy & Standard Committee 5/2011, 7/17, 6/2020

References: Hockenberry, M.J., Wilson, D. *Wong's Nursing Care of Infants and Children*, Ninth Ed. St. Louis, MS: Mosby. (2013)
Bowden, V., Greenberg, C. *Pediatric Nursing Procedures*. 9th Ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins. (2013)

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