

SAFETY

(GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENT SAFETY)

PURPOSE:

1. To create a safe environment for the resident.
2. To communicate concerns about resident safety issues.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Place call light within reach of the resident.
2. Make routine visits (rounds) to check on the resident's condition and comfort.
3. Avoid leaving any medication or equipment in the resident's room that might cause harm.
4. Before performing any procedure, check the resident's identity, the prescriber's order and the resident's care plan.
5. Explain all procedures to the resident and instruct the resident in proper use of the equipment.
6. Support the resident's body well during all positioning, transferring and ambulation. Avoid pulling on the resident's extremities. Provide two or more persons to assist when necessary for resident and staff safety per plan of care/Kardex.
7. Be sure the resident is adequately secured when being transported. Protect resident's extremities during transportation.
8. Lock brakes on wheelchairs before transferring residents.
9. Lock brakes on beds, gurneys, commode chairs, etc. when stationary.
10. Use protective equipment to prevent damage to the resident's skin, i.e., pressure reduction mattresses and cushions, other interventions as outlined on plan of care.
11. Cover all protective pads with light cloth covers.
12. Clean/disinfect all equipment when soiled.
13. Use assistive devices as necessary/as outlined on plan of care.
14. Keep resident's room neat and orderly. The area around the bed and pathways to the corridor and bathroom should be free of obstacles.
15. Avoid environment hazards such as throw rugs, cluttered pathways, spills on the floor, wet floors. Defective equipment and furniture will be reported to maintenance, not used and then will be repaired or replaced.
16. Position articles within reach of the resident to avoid the need to reach.
17. Provide transfer bars or side rails as needed (determined by assessment).
18. Provide a roommate with similar needs and one who has rapport with the resident when possible.
19. Adjust temperature, humidity to optimal level; avoid exposure to drafts or heat.
20. Adjust lighting to optimal level.
21. Provide personal care and a clean bed with proper blankets and pillows for positioning and comfort.
22. Utilize positioning device as recommended by therapy or assessment.
23. Provide surveillance of the resident and staff interactions as part of facility abuse prohibition policy.
24. Limit over stimulation in the environment if assessed as a safety concern.
25. Provide consistency in daily care and staff according to the residents' request if possible.

26. Bed wheels will always be locked except when the bed is being cleansed, moved for cleaning the area under the bed or when necessary to rearrange the furniture.
27. Obstacles in a hallway shall always be placed to one side of the hallway.
28. Electrical cords shall be kept off the floor or out of the pathway of the resident, staff and/or visitors.
29. Any appliance brought into the facility will be inspected by the Maintenance Department for approval of use.
30. Monitor smoking areas used by residents, staff and/or visitors. (If applicable) (See Smoking Policy).
31. No extension cords are to be used.
32. Observe oxygen use areas and follow oxygen safety policies.
33. No resident is allowed in a medication or treatment storage room.
34. Follow resident's plan of care for safety interventions and check for placement/function of these interventions during care daily.
35. Keep all chemicals used by facility staff, housekeeping chemicals, cleaning and sanitizing agents out of reach of residents. (Housekeeping carts locked when out of sight).
36. Keep drugs and therapeutic agents out of reach of residents. (Medication and treatment carts locked).
37. Plants and other natural materials found in residents environment or in outdoor environment (eg: poison ivy).
38. Adjust water temperature to optimal comfort for each resident. If issues with water temperatures arise, notify maintenance department. (Facility follows regulations on water temperature through use of mixing valves to prevent burns).
39. Any equipment used by a resident and/or staff for Resident care properly, (ex: hoist lift, transfer lift, wheelchair, electric wheelchair, siderail, call light), will be taken out of service and reported to administrator/maintenance immediately.