

SARASOTA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL NURSING DEPARTMENT POLICY

TITLE: SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR
PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

POLICY #: 126.852 (Peds)
EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/87
REVISED DATE: 4/04, 1/07
POLICY TYPE: DEPARTMENTAL INTERDEPARTMENTAL
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Job Title of Reviewer: Director, Pediatrics

PURPOSE: To ensure the safety of pediatric patients.

POLICY STATEMENT: The nursing staff of Sarasota Memorial Hospital Pediatric Unit will provide a safe environment for the pediatric patient.

EXCEPTIONS: None

DEFINITIONS: None

- PROCEDURES:**
1. Safety concerns will be discussed with patients and families during admission and when necessary changes in the safety measures are anticipated.
 2. Pediatric patients must wear the proper hospital identification band. The band should never be removed unless the patient's welfare necessitates such removal. The identification band will be reapplied on another extremity.
 3. Hourly rounds will be made by nursing personnel.
 4. Plastic wrappings on all items will be removed, discarded, and kept out of patient's reach.
 5. Toys, appropriate for the patient's age, will be provided. Toys having small removable parts will **NOT** be permitted.
 6. **ACTIVITIES**
 - a. Pediatric patients will stay within the physical boundaries of the unit except when they are undergoing procedures or testing which require transfer to other areas.
 - b. Pediatric patients will be supervised in the Playrooms.
 - c. Pediatric patients who request to leave the unit for reasons other than medical must be accompanied by a staff member/volunteer/parent/guardian. A physician order is required.

7. **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS**

UNDERGOING DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES OR TREATMENTS

- a. Age appropriate safety precautions are to be exercised during all diagnostic procedures and treatments taking place throughout the hospital. (Refer to Age Specific Competencies/Job Descriptions.)
- b. Anyone attending an infant or small child in a crib, stretcher, or bed with the siderails down should never turn away from the infant/child without ensuring that the infant/child can be kept safe from falling, rolling, crawling, or jumping from the open bed/crib. Safety efforts may include, but are not limited to, maintaining hand contact with the child (that is, one hand should be kept on the child's back or abdomen) and/or obtaining the assistance of other personnel to assist with the procedure.

8. CRIBS OR BEDS

- a. Children under four years of age will be assigned to a crib or high top crib unless otherwise requested by parents (and release form is signed by parents). Side rails will remain up unless a healthcare practitioner is in attendance while child is in crib. Children four years and older may be admitted to a regular sized hospital bed.
- b. All beds will remain in the **DOWN** position at all times except when personnel are in attendance and rendering care. Side rails will remain up while patient is in bed.
- c. Bed wheels will be locked at all times except when the bed is being moved.
- d. Cribs or beds will not be located within reach of electrical cords, equipment, or curtain drawstring.
- e. Infants must be positioned on their side or back when lying flat in a crib or isolette unless their physical condition warrants otherwise.

9. CROUPETTES/MIST TENTS

- a. When patients are in croupettes, the fan switch will be maintained in the UP position, i.e., COOL.
- b. Electrical devices will **NOT** be placed inside the croupette.
- c. Patients who are placed in cool mist tents will be clothed and covered, unless febrile, to maintain their body temperatures.

10. FEEDINGS

Bottle feedings will **NOT** be given to an unattended infant who is unable to hold their own bottle. There will be no “propping” of bottles.

11. RESTRAINTS/SAFETY BELTS

- a. Restraining devices may be utilized to prevent pulling of tubes or equipment, or to protect patients who are unable to understand or maintain safety precautions. Refer to Hospital Policy #01.PAT.64. Restraints and Seclusion.
- b. Safety belts will be utilized and securely fastened when patients are in infant seats, swings, highchairs, wheelchairs, strollers, etc.

12. LOUNGE CHAIRS

Patients will not be permitted to sleep in lounge chairs unless otherwise requested by parents. A release form must be signed.

13. SECURITY SYSTEM

- a. Pediatric patients, as outlined in Nursing Department Policy #126.854 (“Infant and Pediatric Security”), will be identified and tagged with detection device as indicated.
- b. Automatic door lock system and “security” panic button will be utilized as outlined in same policy.

RESPONSIBILITY

It will be the responsibility of the Pediatric Director to see that nursing personnel are aware of, and adhere to, this policy.

REFERENCE(S):

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (2006) Accreditation manual for hospitals. Oakbrook Terrace: Author.

Sarasota Memorial Hospital Personnel. (2006). Patient Safety. (01.PAT.20) Sarasota Memorial Health Care System Corporate Policy. Sarasota, FL: Author.

Hockenberry, MJ. (2003). Wong's Nursing care of infants and children. (7th edition) St. Louis, Mo: Mosby Year Book, Inc.

SMH Nursing Department Policy Manual. (2006). Infant/Pediatric Security. #126.854. SMH: Author.

**REVIEWING
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APPROVALS:

Signatures indicate approval of the new or reviewed/revised policy

Date

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Committee/Sections (if applicable): Nursing Standards and Practice Council	1/4/07
Vice President/Administrative Director (if applicable): Signature: Name and Title:	
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