

# Environment of Care

In the healthcare environment, there are important safety elements that you must be aware of in order to keep you and your patients safe. These elements are called the “*Environment of Care*” and consist of seven areas, which are:

- ❖ SAFETY
- ❖ SECURITY
- ❖ HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & WASTE
- ❖ UTILITIES MANAGEMENT
- ❖ EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
- ❖ FIRE PREVENTION
- ❖ MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

## SAFETY

- Visually check electrical equipment before use
- Utilize good body mechanics when lifting, moving and managing patients
- Personal protective equipment and clothing are required for your protection from exposure and hazardous chemicals
- Prevent trips/slips/falls, be aware of your surroundings, including objects on the floor, wet floors, spills
- Report accidents or injuries to you patients to the nurse manager/supervisor
- Report accidents or injuries to yourself to the Occupational Health Nurse or the Nursing Supervisor
- Complete a “Visitor and Property Incident Report”

## SECURITY

- Secure your valuables
- Report any suspicious circumstances (Security officer can be reached through the hospital operator, dial “0”)
- Know the “Emergency Codes” and your role:

<u>Code</u>	<u>Emergency</u>
Code Blue	Medical emergency
Code Black	Bomb threat
Code Gray	Internal/external disaster
Code Green	Behavior/violence emergency
Code Orange	Haz-Mat event and Decon
Code Pink	Patient infant abduction
Pedi Code Pink	Patient—child abduction
Code Adam	Non patient child abduction
Code Red	Fire
Code White	Active shooter

**To report an emergency, dial campus emergency number and give location and nature of emergency.**

Emergency extensions are as follows:

City Centre:	4-2400	New Braunfels:	3333
Children's:	4-2400	Westover Hills:	3-8888
Medical Center:	5-7777	Alamo Heights:	4-8888

### **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & WASTE**

- Information on hazardous chemicals, MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets), for the patient care areas are available at the nursing stations
- Notify the Housekeeping Supervisor (dial "0" for Hospital Operator) for mercury spills and small chemical spills
- Properly dispose of biohazard waste in the appropriate labeled receptacles
- Properly dispose of sharps in the appropriate puncture resistant containers

### **UTILITIES MANAGEMENT**

- Report building, systems and equipment problems and failures to the nursing station
- Remember that only RED outlets work in cases of lost electrical power

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

- Code Gray is announced for Internal or External disasters or emergencies.
- What do I do when a Code Gray is announced?  
[Click here](#) for full instructions.

### **FIRE PREVENTION**

- If there is smoke or fire in the immediate area remember the **R.A.C.E.** formula (**R**escue, **A**larm, **C**onfine, **E**vacuate)
- If there is smoke or fire in other areas - see the nursing staff for information on what actions you may have to take
- The "You are Here" maps by the elevators provide fire evacuation routes

### **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

- Preventive maintenance (P.M.) - know if P.M. is current on medical equipment (indicated by a dated sticker) before you use it on a patient
- If there is an equipment problem or failure, please notify the nursing staff
- Know capabilities and limitations of the medical equipment you use
- You must be trained on any new medical equipment before using it on a patient
- All outside medical equipment must have a safety check performed before use

**For questions or more information on these issues call the Safety Officer at (210) 704-2041.**