

11- Common error in the medical and critical care units regarding patient safety:

1- Fall the patient:

☐ Injury resulting from patient's falls in the hospitals setting is a common cause of lawsuits against nurses.

If a patient is unsteady or receiving medication that causes drowsiness, take appropriate precautions before leaving him unattended (for example; when appropriate raise side rails on the stretcher or bed.)-

In addition, document all measures taken to protect patient in the patient's medical record. ☐

☐ For Example if changed a patient's room to be closer to the nurses' station document these nursing interventions.

On the other hand, faulty use of protective measures and procedures for patient handling and bathing is a malpractice act resulting in patient slips down and injury. Therefore, the patient nurses take appropriate precautions before handling them

The nurse uses safety measures, such as keeping the patient's bed in a low position and checking on the patient whenever the nurse or other caregivers pass the patient's room, in an effort to avoid the.

Use of restraints. *Chemical restraints, primarily psychotropic medications* such as sedatives, hypnotic, anti- anxiety agents, and narcoleptics, are used control hyperactive behavior of agitated patient. Restraints are legal only if they are necessary to protect the patient others from harm.

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☐ **Acting with restraint: one of most important legal obligations is to protect patient from harming themselves or others, according to:**

☐ A physician must order the restrain in writing. The order must include the date and time, the type of restraint ordered; the purpose; and a specific short-term (**24 hours or less**) time limit.

☐ The order **cannot renewed** without reassessment of the patient. If restraints are still indicated after reassessment, the physician must write a new order.

☐ In an emergency, may apply restraints without an order, but you should obtain a written order within a short time (such as 1 hour), as specified by policy.

- If need to restrain a patient to prevent falls, remember that physical restraints can cause a number of adverse injuries as well, including **skin breakdown, friction burns, abrasions, bruises, paired circulation, suffocation increased agitation, contractures, and pressure ulcers secondary to decreased mobility, dehydration and incontinence.**

Medication Errors:

Medication administration is an area fraught with potential danger. According to the President of National Medication Error Reporting Program, medication error kills one person per day.

- Furthermore, the director of projects for the People's Medical Society "a patient advocacy group" has estimated that thousands of deaths occur each year as a result of medication errors.
- The number of deaths caused by medication errors in PICUs increased from 2.876 in 1995 to 7.391 in 2000. Consequently, hospital medication delivery system should be designed, hence, there is of system checks and balances to reduce medication errors.
- Good nursing practice requires understanding the medication administer before administrating a medication to the patient.
- Know the drug's dosage range, possible adverse effect, toxicity level, indications and contraindications. In addition, always be aware of hospital's policies and procedures. If nurses are unfamiliar with a medication plan to administer, review text or consult a pharmacist.
- Alternatively can ask supervisor about the drug. If nurses do not understand a physician order questions the physician about the drug dosage, potential adverse effect, and routs of administration as necessary.

Failure to Provide Sufficient Monitoring.

Failure to remove foreign Objects.

Improper Use of Equipment.

Failure to Communicate: Communication between nurse and patient's family and between nurse and other health care professionals

Failure to Documentation

Risk of infection

Prevent the spread of infection as the health care facility may adopt its own infection control policies and practices. infections, is a high priority in health care.□

□□Nurses should use techniques that prevent microorganisms from living, growing, and spreading. Two methods are used to reduce or eliminate the presence of microorganisms and thus prevent infections.

These two methods are called surgical asepsis and medical asepsis.

□ □ ***Surgical asepsis*** refers to the practice that eliminates the presence of all microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, fungi, yeasts, molds, rickettsia, and protozoa).

□ □ This practice is sterilization, while medical asepsis refers to practices that help reduce the number and inhibit the growth of microorganisms, especially pathogens (those that cause infections or contagious diseases). □

□ □ ***Medical asepsis***, also called clean technique includes use of antimicrobial agents, hand washing, cleaning supplies and equipment, and disinfection. □

□ □ It is important that the nurse teach patient and their family facts and practices about surgical and medical asepsis.