

12- Guidelines for hospital fire safety measures.

- ☐ ☐ Health care facilities should have regular fire drills so that all personnel know exactly what to do. ☐
- ☐ ☐ Health care personnel should be trained and drilled in: Fire prevention, Location and use of fire alarms, Location and use of fire extinguishers, Location of emergency exits, and evacuation procedures. ☐
- ☐ ☐ Signs should be posted to show that oxygen is in use where applicable. ☐
- ☐ ☐ If patient is receiving oxygen as part of his treatment, be sure that the patient, his roommates, and visitors know that smoking is prohibited. ☐
- ☐ ☐ **NOTE:** Smoking is prohibited in treatment areas of most health care facilities. ☐
- ☐ ☐ ***If a fire occurs***, follow these steps; ☐ ☐
- ☐ ☐ Activate the fire alarm procedures, turn off oxygen, lights, and any electrical equipment in the vicinity of the fire, remove the patients who are in immediate danger, notify the hospital "switchboard" of the location of the fire, close windows and doors to reduce ventilation, using the fire extinguisher, ☐
- ☐ Attempt to extinguish the fire, return patients who are not endangered to their rooms.

Guidelines for Hospital electrical Safety Measures includes:

1. Use electrical equipment for the intended purpose only.
2. Keep television sets, telephones, radios, electric shavers, and all other electrical equipment and appliances away from bathtubs and washbasins.
3. Test all small appliances before use to see that they are in good working order.
4. Ensure periodic service checks of all electrical equipment; remove a plug from a wall socket by grasping the plug, not the cord, use plugs and outlets with a ground when possible.
5. Do not overload an electrical outlet, never use faulty equipment.
6. If an appliance overheats, produces a shock or gives off an odor while being used, remove the appliance from the area.

7. Follow procedures to have the appliance evaluated by medical maintenance.

NOTE: An electric spark near a high concentration of oxygen or certain anesthetic gases may cause an instant and serious fire.

Role of Nurses in patient safety

□ Nurses are very close to the patient as they are responsible for their care, they are in well position to observe and influence care. Thereby, nurses can detect and address threats to patient safety in hospital.

□ Researches have pointed a strong relationship between nurses and patient safety outcomes.

Nurses have power to identify risk factors that could affect patient safety; they are the one who implement the safety elements in dealing with patient by understanding him/her and communicate patient's needs to healthcare system. Failure in listening to the patient is jeopardizing patient safety.

□ Preventing hospital-acquired infections, which sometimes result in increasing rate of morbidity and mortality, as a result increase in health care cost. Most of hospital-acquired pathogens are transmitted from patient to patient through the hands of health care workers.

□ Because of that hand washing is the best, simplest and most effective proven method to reduce the incidence of nosocomial infection.

□ Nurses are responsible also in preventing fall of the patient in hospitals. A fall is defined as unintentionally coming to rest on the ground floor, or other lower level, but not as a result of syncope or overwhelming external force.

□ Nurses should do risk assessment to identify individuals at risk for falling by taking patient safety history to detect past falls, Hospitals should provide protocol used by nurses as tool to perform falls risk assessment and prevent it. Prevention of pressure ulcer in immobilized patient is an important issue in patient safety.

□ Because a large part of nurse's job is assessment, health care organizations as well as investigators have issued various nursing assessment tools as interventions, such as fall risk assessment, pressure ulcer risk assessment, or identification of patient at high risk for malnutrition to reduce adverse events and provide safety.