Occupational Therapy Splinting Procedures in the Operating and Recovery Rooms

Purpose

This document presents the policy and procedures adhered to by occupational therapy staff when providing patients with splints in the operating and recovery rooms.

Audience

All members of the Rehabilitation Services Department

Policy

Occupational Therapists may provide patients with splints in the operating room and recovery room as requested by the physician.

Verbal Order from the Physician

The occupational therapist receives an order from the physician to provide a patient with a splint in the operating room or recovery room. The therapist obtains necessary information including:

- Name of the resident or staff physician
- Name of the patient and the medical service he/she is on
- Type of treatment procedure the patient has undergone
- Type of splint requested including any known modifications
- Therapist may proceed on verbal order from physician; however, must ensure that order is either placed in Epic for inpatient or written for outpatient (i.e. day surgery).

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Splint Fabrication in the OR or Recovery Room

The therapist procures the necessary equipment required to fabricate the splint for use in the operating or recovery room area.

Step	Action
1	Before entering the OR, the therapist changes into the appropriate clothing including scrub suit, hair cover, mask, and boots.
2	Scrub hands for 3-4 minutes prior to entering the OR area.
3	Therapist observes all sterile areas and asks the physician which areas are sterile when necessary.
4	Ask physician or nurse to move any equipment if necessary.
5	Gloves should be worn at all times.
6	Therapist will maintain clean splinting techniques.
7	If possible, a light dressing should be placed over any open areas, suture lines, skin grafts, etc.
8	After splinting is complete, therapist writes a note in Epic, if inpatient, acknowledging consult received and splint fabricated and applied in operating or recovery room. If order is for day surgery patient, written consent should be acknowledged and appropriate documentation submitted to Rehab Services office personnel responsible for arriving and dispositioning patient.

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Monitoring Patient's Response to the Splint

The patient's response to the splint should be monitored regularly following the initial application. Adjustments should be made as necessary.

Dynamic Splinting

The therapist should avoid fabricating dynamic splints in the OR as fabrication of these splints requires extensive time. When possible, the therapist should request that the procedure be provided in the recovery room or on the unit later that same day.