Performance of Staff in Emergency Situations

Purpose

This document serves to inform personnel of the proper procedures to follow in emergency situations.

Scope

This document does not cover external disasters or code procedures. Those issues are covered by separate policies.

Audience

The information in this document is intended for all members of the Department of Rehabilitation Services staff.

Policy

The Department of Rehabilitation Services shall insure that all personnel involved in direct patient care will be familiar with appropriate procedures to follow for common medical emergencies and will apply the appropriate intervention. Personnel will also notify the physician and/or nurse as soon as necessary.

Excessive Bleeding

- Apply direct pressure at source of bleeding or at proximal artery.
- If patient is sitting, transfer patient to stretcher, mat, or treatment table and elevate involved body part if possible.
- Monitor vital signs.
- Notify patient's physician.
- Notify unit nurse so patient may be monitored when returned to floor.

Orthostatic Hypoten-tion or Syncope

- Orthostatic Hypotension and/or Syncope
- Lower patient's head and elevate feet.
- Monitor vital signs.
- Apply cool - cold compress to head and neck.
- Notify physician if patient loses consciousness.
- Notify unit nurse so patient may be monitored when returned to floor.

Continued on next page

Performance of Staff in Emergency Situations, Continued

Seizures

- Protect patient by removing structures with which the patient might hurt themselves.
- Call for help.
- Position head to open airway.
- Notify physician.
- Notify unit nurse so patient may be monitored when returned to floor.

Low Blood Sugar

- Notify nurse and give patient sugar if cleared.

IV Malfunctions

- IV not dripping or backed up
  call unit nurse for instructions.
- IV Leaks
  Check connections, if only partially disconnected, reconnect.
  If source of leaking cannot be determined and corrected, notify unit nurse for instructions.
- Bleeding from IV Site
  Apply direct pressure and ask someone to notify unit nurse for instructions.
- IMED Alarms
  Identify alarm, correct if possible.
  Notify nurse and request assistance if necessary.

Autonomic Dysreflexia

- Sit patient up if able or elevate head of bed.
- Call for help if needed
- Look for causes of pain and relieve if possible.
- Loosen clothing or restrictive garments.
- Check urinary catheter for kinks in tubing
- Notify physician/nursing staff

Continued on next page