

**Northwest Kidney Centers
Safety Committee Minutes**

April 29, 2008

Approval of minutes:

Minutes from Jan. 22 were approved. The Safety Committee agreed that we would approve minutes via email, beginning with this meeting's minutes. Completed minutes will be sent to all committee members, and we will have one week to submit any corrections, before the minutes are then sent to Ingrid to post on K-Net. The minutes from January 22nd are currently posted on K-Net.

Old Business:

Suction Apparatus/ Canisters and Suction tips: This subject is currently on hold. Products Committee is actively looking for new equipment for all units. They will also discuss suction tips that fit the new canisters. Referred to Products.

Patient Headphones: These standard headphones, which plug into the patients' TV remotes, are considerably helpful in decreasing the noise level on the units. Distribution has 300 sets of headphones remaining. Per Cindy McRoberts (Northwest Kidney Foundation), these headphones are to be issued to new in-center patients only, as specified in the conditions for the grant. The Safety Committee would like to request an additional grant from the Foundation, specifically for headphone replacements. Linda will contact Cindy McRoberts.
-Closed.

Scott respirators: All units now have Scott respirators. No further action is required. -Closed.

Disaster Drills: Earthquake drills have been completed at all units. Medicare was pleased with the content and process of the drills. Linda and Gretchen are currently conducting flood drills. NKC policy directs that we do at least two disaster drills per year.

Temporal Thermometer Evaluation: The temporal thermometer is currently being tested in SCU. The process has been slowed by user questions. A company representative will revisit the Products Committee for further teaching. -Open.

Contract Company Update: We are checking the contracted environmental services companies to be sure that they are using cleaning products that have been approved by EPA, and that their staff have met all OSHA requirements.
-Closed.

HIV rapid testing: The rapid HIV test is now available. Instructions have been added to the post exposure policy for staff. It has not been used as of 4/29/08.

The blood specimen needs to be sent "STAT", via Couriers West, to Evergreen Hospital Laboratory, where it will be processed within the two-hour time frame.

COW maintenance accountability: The IT department will be responsible for these issues. Ashok will work with Palmer to assure COW maintenance and create a plan. -Open.

Electrical Cords - 3 prong vs. 2 prong: Any extension cord used on the units must have 3 prongs. Even with 3 prongs, extension cords used with patient laptops are a safety concern (a tripping hazard for both staff and patients, as well as an obstacle in the event of a medical emergency). Extension cords are currently used in order to preserve the life of the laptop batteries. Linda will contact Syrenka Slettebak (Community Relations) regarding the patient laptops. -Open.

New Business:

MSDS online: NKC is currently planning to purchase an MSDS online program in July. (Details pending.)

Roundtable Discussion:

New CPR Recommendations for Civilians: A question was raised regarding new CPR recommendations requiring no ventilation, only compressions. Per Education Department: This new procedure does not apply to healthcare professionals. **NKC will continue to use an Ambu bag to provide ventilations.** -Closed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 22nd 10:00 -11:30am at Haviland Kidney Center

Recorded by:
Gretchen Aarhus, LPN
And Kim Benning