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Safe Patient Mobilization, 18618

PURPOSE:

To enhance the safety of the work environment for Sharp HealthCare patient caregivers by outlining the steps for safe patient mobilization to reduce patient and/or staff injury and comply with regulatory requirements. This policy is applicable in acute care settings where patient mobilizations occurs

DEFINITIONS:

For the purpose of this policy:

Safe Patient Mobilization Team: consists of a multidisciplinary group of staff responsible for developing, standardizing, implementing and monitoring the safe patient mobilization program.

Patient Caregiver: is defined as an employee who is involved in the provision of care to another individual. Examples include, but are not limited to, nurses, nursing assistants, physical therapists, radiology technologists, Mobilization Technicians, transporters.

Manual patient handling or mobilization: means the lifting, transferring, repositioning, or mobilizing of part or all of a patient's body done without the assistance of equipment.

At Risk Patient Mobilization Tasks: Activities that require patient caregivers to provide physical effort to assist with or during patient mobilizations and are characterized by biomechanical and postural stressors imposed on the patient caregiver.

Emergency: Emergency situations are the only time manual mobilizations methods are allowed. Emergency situations are **unanticipated circumstances** that can be life threatening and require immediate action. During the emergency if assessment by RN or physician indicates it is **not necessary to immediately move patient**, RN can coordinate mobilization with the use of patient lift equipment or call the mobilization team.

Leadership: Those persons who are in a lead role or above.

Mobilization Technician: A role identified for a Sharp employee who is specifically trained in safe patient mobilizations and using mobilization equipment, transfer or repositioning devices or aids. Technician may be a member of a team or an individual assigned to a department or throughout the facility.

Manual lift: the act of moving, lifting, transferring or repositioning a patient using a patient caregiver's body strength without the use of mobilization aids or devices.

Patient mobility assessment: use of a scoring or other system to examine and evaluate the physical, mental, medical and/or environmental conditions of the patient to determine appropriate safe patient mobilization methods, equipment and supplies. These may include but are not limited to, the Scoot Test, Mobility Assessment Test (MAT), and Schmid Fall Risk Assessment.

Patient Mobilization Equipment/Aids: may include trained patient caregiver, Mobilization Technician, equipment, devices and/or aids used to decrease the risk of injury to patient care staff during the mobilization of patients. Includes but is not limited to:

- **Lifting equipment:** ceiling-mounted and/or floor-based equipment and their accompanying slings that function to assist in lifting, transferring, ambulating, repositioning and other mobilization tasks
- **Lateral transfer device:** provides assistance in moving patients horizontally from one surface to another (e.g. transfers from bed to gurney) and includes friction-reducing devices and air lateral transfer device systems.
- **Repositioning aids:** provide assistance in turning patients and repositioning patients up to the head of the bed and up in chairs
- **Beds:** may provide assistance with patient mobilization tasks such as lateral rotation therapy, transportation, percussion, bringing patient to sitting position etc.
- **Gurneys:** used to provide assistance with transporting patients (gurneys may be motorized or not motorized)
- **Transport devices for equipment/bed/wheelchair transport devices:** assist patient caregivers in pushing patients and heavy
- **Specialty slings:** includes amputee, limb and repositioning slings to assist with repositioning, turning and supporting patients

Safe Patient Mobilization: also referred to as safe patient handling, is the replacement of manual lifting and transferring of patients with patient mobilization aids as appropriate for the specific patient and consistent with the employer's safety policies and the clinical assessment and