Environment of care and safety requirements

*Operating Room Humidity Ranges Update*

Life Safety surveys last August have given recent attention to ambulatory surgery centers in California requiring that facilities maintain a relative humidity in the O.R.s of >35%. This has prompted notice that we all need to be aware of. Humidity levels of 30-60%, which has been the standard, now needs to be 35% or above. The current Air Exchanges, Temperature and Humidity Settings in the Operating Room/Procedure Room, are to be recorded on a log sheet on a daily basis for each Operating Room by a designated employee. I have included an example of a Terminal Cleaning sheet that includes temperature and humidity logging. In the event that the humidity or temperature is outside the acceptable range, the nursing manager will be notified immediately for appropriate action. Your current policy template should provide that operating room air quality will be maintained between 35 – 60% relative humidity. A relative humidity that is too high can result in damp or moist supplies with added opportunity for mold growth. A relative humidity that is too low can result in excessive bacteria-carrying dust within the surgical environment and you don’t want that.

The NFPA 99 for Health Care Facilities require that ASCs maintain humidity between 35-60% relative, as compared with 30-60% which had been a recognized industry standard for some time. Please note this modest change in the range of humidity we must operate within according to the NFPA guidelines. Centers must ensure that the HVAC is adjusted to correct readings that fall outside the mandated ranges. In the summer, challenges exist to control excessive humidity, where in winter you may need to add humidification to maintain the >35% relative humidity level. Facilities should be sure to have their HVAC contractor verify that their humidifiers are present and are in good working order. The upper value of 60% will remain within the guidelines for relative humidity for operating rooms.

Resources and References:
END OF DAY
DAILY CLEANING REPORT FORM

Week _______ To _______ ROOM#_____

All staff is responsible to complete daily. Resource Nurse will collect at end of the week.

- Trash removed (do not replace trash liner)
- Mop the Floor if soiled
- Clean all top and bottom surfaces (tables, mayo, and prep stand etc)
- Clean top of O.R. bed (remove cushions & clean cushions/bed – leave bed unmade)
- Clean Bovie machine (unplug and wrap cords neatly)
- Clean X-Ray view boxes
- Clean suction equipment and stand (replace canisters)
- Clean Extension cords
- Clean Sub Sterile rooms
- Turn off radio
- Close and lock cabinets
- Remove all items off the top of the cabinets (to allow housekeeping to clean)
- CLEAN SPECIAL EQUIPMENT (including but not limited to the following items)
  - Candy canes/stirrups
  - Tourniquet units
  - Black tanks
  - Video carts
  - Neptune
  - Bair hugger
- Remove unnecessary equipment from the room.
- Set-up the room for the next day with equipment, supplies, medication and instruments.

COMPLETED BY: (initial each day)

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RECORD TEMP/HUMIDITY (prior to the start of cases; report any temperature or humidity out of range)

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Everyone is expected to complete this assignment at the “END OF THE DAY”

Thank you for your cooperation.