AFFINITY SURGERY CENTER

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Section Title: Facilities And Environment	**Section:** 8
Subject : Safety Management Program	**Policy:** 8.3

POLICY

The purpose of this plan is to establish, support, and maintain a safety program that is based on monitoring and evaluation of organizational experience, applicable federal and state laws and regulations, and accepted practice within the healthcare industry.

Goal

The safety management plan goal is to provide a physical environment free of hazards and to manage staff activities to reduce the risk of human injuries that could affect employees, patients, visitors, and/or guests. To prepare facility's personnel to be able to demonstrate/conduct the evacuation of a patient.

Objectives

This plan is based on the following objectives:

1. Maintaining and supervising all grounds, buildings, and equipment, including special activity areas used by patients.

2. Ensuring that emergency service areas are clearly identified and easily accessible.

3. Establishing a risk-assessment program that proactively evaluates the impact on patient and public safety of the buildings, grounds, equipment, occupants, and internal physical systems.

4. Providing a safety officer, appointed by the administration, who is qualified by experience or education; responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring the organization's safety program; and intervening whenever conditions exist that either pose an immediate threat to life or health or pose a threat of damage to equipment or buildings.

5. Reporting and investigating all incidents that involve property damage, occupational illness, and patient, employee, or visitor injury.

6. Requiring organization safety policies and procedures that are distributed, practiced, and enforced.

7. Reviewing the organizational safety policies and procedures as frequently as necessary, but no less than annually.

8. Promoting an ongoing hazard surveillance program, including response to product safety recalls.

9. Using safety-related information in the orientation of new employees and continuing education of employees.

10. Requiring an annual plan and evaluation of the objectives, scope, performance, and effectiveness of the documented safety management plan.

Policy elements

1. Safety management policy statement

2. Each employee is required to comply with safety and health standards and with the policies and procedures that apply to their job responsibilities in an effort to maintain a safe environment. Any violation of policy may result in disciplinary action.

3. Anesthesia personnel should review and be familiar with the facility's written emergency protocol for cardio-pulmonary emergencies and other internal and external disasters.

4. Maintenance and supervision of grounds and equipment

The Quality/Risk Management Committee will develop written policies and procedures to enhance safety within the facility and on the grounds. Monitor equipment and utility preventive maintenance and inspection procedures, and monitor the education and training of users to protect against failure or user error.

Equipment Safety Checklist includes but not limited to:

- Back-up emergency power system (UPS)
- Defibrillator
- Electrocautery or Bovie unit
- Laser
- Magnehelic Gauge
- Meds Refrigerator temperature
- Nurse annunciator system
- Operating or procedure table
- Oxygen / Nitrous gas cylinders, regulators, gauges
- Pulse oximeters
- Suction system or aspiration units
- Surgeon's headlights
- Surgery light or procedure lights in operating room(s)
- Vital signs monitores

An environment tour will be made of the buildings and grounds of the facility to ensure maintenance, supervision, and safe use of these buildings and grounds by patients, staff, and visitors. Patient areas will be assessed a minimum of twice yearly, non-patient areas a minimum of annually. All buildings shall comply with the appropriate provisions of the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code®, 2000. Consideration will be given to parking lots/structures and the security and safety needs of these facilities, recreational areas, and special terrain problems. Plans and policies will be developed and implemented to cover security, safety, and the functional needs of patients, visitors, and employees.

Risk assessment

The safety management program, which proactively evaluates the impact of buildings, grounds, equipment, occupants, and internal physical systems on patient and public safety, is carried out by using incident reports, accident investigation, and reports from various agencies, such as insurance companies, state or county health agencies, and fire agencies.

Hazard surveillance

An ongoing hazard surveillance program, including response to product safety recalls, shall be maintained and reported through the Quality/Risk Management Committee.

Examination of safety issues

All safety-related issues shall be examined by the Quality/Risk Management Committee. The Quality/Risk Management Committee shall include representation from those areas deemed appropriate. Nonsupervisory employees will participate in activities of the safety program. All members of the Quality/Risk Management Committee are appointed by the administration/safety officer or designee. The Quality/Risk Management Committee shall evaluate the safety management program compliance by evaluation at least annually.

Incident/injury/illness reporting and investigation

The Quality/Risk Management Committee/risk management committee shall review all reports of accidents or injuries to patients, visitors, and/or personnel. Summary reports of incidents shall include description of the incident, cause, corrective actions taken, and preventive measures taken. Refer to the appropriate policies and procedures. The Quality/Risk Management Committee will establish an incident reporting system for investigating and evaluating all incidents reported and for documenting review of all such reports and actions taken.

Safety officer/designee

The safety officer and the Quality/Risk Management Committee are appointed by the administration. Administration has delegated to the Quality/Risk Management Committee the authority to take action when hazardous conditions or potential hazardous conditions exist that could result in personal injury to individuals or damage to equipment or buildings. This delegated authority has been approved by the administration and the board of directors of the facility.

New employee orientation and continuing education

1. An employee's orientation program shall address general safety processes, area-specific safety, and specific job-related hazards.

2. The Quality/Risk Management Committee will provide safety-related information through orientation of new employees

3. continuing education on employee and patient health issues

4. use of all means of communication to support the program requirements or to communicate safety issues

5. recommendation purchases of safety equipment and suggestions for any necessary physical changes to improve safety conditions

The Quality/Risk Management Committee shall coordinate the facility educational activities to effect improvements in the safety of patients, visitors, and staff. Educational programs shall include general safety procedures, department-specific safety procedures, and specific job-related hazards. Educational programs shall be based on industry standards and literature review and shall be continually adapted to reflect organizational experience and evaluation of effectiveness of training programs.

Performance improvement

The Quality/Risk Management Committee shall meet quarterly/when necessary and record the activities. A review of the safety program's performance shall be conducted at least annually. Summaries of all findings shall be forwarded to administration, the quality improvement (QI) department, and the appropriate oversight committee(s).

Performance indicators

The following indicators shall be utilized in evaluating the performance of the safety management program:

1. Environmental health and safety
2. Life safety management
3. Emergency preparedness
4. Security
5. Hazardous materials and waste
6. Infection control
7. Equipment management
8. Utilities management

Inspection, preventive maintenance, and testing of equipment

Monitor equipment and utilities for preventive maintenance and inspection procedures and monitor education and training of users to protect against failure or user error.

Safety policies and procedures

The Quality/Risk Management Committee or responsible department will develop written policies and procedures to enhance safety within the facility. All safety policies will be reviewed annually in accordance with facility policy. Any revisions, updates, or changes shall be submitted to the appropriate authority for approval. The ultimate responsibility for development and maintenance of current safety policies shall lie with the safety officer.

Annual evaluation

The safety management program will be evaluated at least annually for its effectiveness. Evaluation shall include all areas of safety management.

Responsibilities

1. Executive leadership
2. Toward fulfillment of the general and specific safety goals of the safety management plan, executive leadership shall
3. Appoint a safety officer(s) (of the Quality/Risk Management Committee) who is qualified to oversee the safety management program
4. The facility must have a written list of all equipment, materials and supplies necessary to properly carry out job assignments.

Safety officer

Toward fulfillment of the general and specific safety goals of the safety management plan, the safety officer shall provide oversight for the health and safety program at the facility

Management

Because good safety performance is an essential factor in effective cost and quality control, safety cannot be subordinated to other management interests. It must be considered as part of every operation and every function. Because they are responsible for the actions of persons reporting to them, each supervisor has the obligation to communicate safety policies and enforce safety procedures. To fulfill this responsibility, they shall enforce facility safety rules and regulations, documenting all violations. Supervise and evaluate employee performance with regard to safety on the job. Provide personal support for safety activities and safety procedures. Take prompt corrective action when unsafe acts or conditions are observed. Ensure that a safe work environment is provided for employees. Ensure that safety has been considered prior to the commencement of each task or function, not only for their own personnel, but for others who may be exposed or affected, including patients. When necessary, develop techniques and procedures relative to specific work operations or tasks, ensuring proper consideration of safety. Instruct each employee, during the orientation period and annually (or according to your accreditor or other regulating body), in the hazards associated with assigned duties and how to avoid injuries.

1. Ensure, through instruction and surveillance that each employee is aware that he or she is expected to work safely and that willful violations of safety rules will be cause for disciplinary actions, up to and including termination.

2. Instill safety awareness in each employee by personal example, regular personal contacts, and group meetings.

3. Motivate employee interest and participation in the safety program by setting an example and soliciting suggestions.
   a. cooperate fully with safety officer/the Quality/Risk Management Committee in the promotion of safety activities.
   b. Seek assistance from the safety officer relative to safe practices and procedures.
   c. Ensure that employees receive all required safety training and education.
   d. Assist in conducting training as needed.
   e. Know and instruct employees in emergency actions, including evacuation procedures from all work areas.
   f. Have new or relocated equipment and instrumentation checked and approved by facility services before it is placed in operation.
   g. Ensure that adequate safety equipment and protective devices are provided for each job in each work area(s), as required, and that such equipment is properly used and maintained by the employees.
   h. ensure that all injuries are reported and, if necessary, treated immediately.
   i. investigate all accidents and incidents in their area to determine whether injuries resulted, and make the required reports.
   j. participate actively when called on to serve on the Quality/Risk Management Committee. Further, appoint an alternate from the department who can attend committee meetings and represent the department in the absence of the department supervisor.

All Employees

For the safety program to be successful, each employee must know and utilize the contents of this policy to the best of his or her ability and with respect to each individual's job requirements. The absence of a safety standard on a specific job or task does not relieve employees of the safety responsibility concerning that job. If employees find that specific safety information is not available in this policy, they should contact their respective management and ask for the required information. Employees have been hired to perform their job safely and are expected to work as safely as possible and to support the safety management program.

They shall:

1. learn the safe and correct way to perform their assigned duties and shall ask their supervisor anything about which they are in doubt

2. perform their jobs in a safe, responsible manner using required safety devices and personal protective equipment provided by the health facility, following established procedures, and wearing proper, clean clothing suitable for the job they were hired to perform take no chances or short cuts in the performance of any task or procedure

3. report any accident, personal injury, or patient complaint regarding the health or safety practices, no matter how slight, to their supervisor

4. immediately report any hazard observed and suggest to the supervisor better and safer ways to perform tasks

5. always be fit for their assigned duties by practicing good health habits and personal cleanliness

6. practice good housekeeping at all times; keep equipment, tools, materials, instruments, and work areas clean and orderly

7. attend all required safety-related training

8. know what actions to take in case of fire or other emergency situation in their work area(s)

9. comply with no-smoking requirements in all patient care and hazardous areas