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dedicated distributor of



Fan Use in Hospitals

Scope:

Hospitals

Purpose / Rationale:

To reduce the risk of transmitting infections through portable fans used in patient care areas, while still recognizing patient comfort.

Definitions:

Portable fan: a small, battery-operated fan that is placed on a bedside table or equivalent.

Patient care areas: areas of the hospital where patients are present and/or areas of the hospital that house supplies that come into contact with patients.

Policy:

- A. Prior to offering a portable fan, work with maintenance to adjust the ventilation system to a normal comfort level. If unable to meet the patient's comfort needs, offer a portable fan.
- B. Fans will be single patient use. Fans will be discarded or sent home with the patient or family upon discharge.
- C. Fans will not be allowed in isolation rooms, nurseries, operating rooms, sterile storage areas, areas where sterile procedures could occur which include cath labs, interventional radiology, in rooms of immunosuppressed patients and in patients with open wounds. If sterile procedures outside of those listed above occur at the patient's bedside, turn fan off prior to opening the sterile field.
- D. Position the fan at patient's bed level or higher. Placement of table fans on floor is not acceptable.
- E. Ensure fan is pointing toward the patient's bed in a way that doesn't allow fan's airflow to inadvertently go into the hallway.
- F. Care should be taken to avoid air blowing directly on a part of the body where there is a surgical wound or invasive device. Care should also be taken to avoid air blowing on an infant housed in the mother's room.
- G. Fans will not be brought in by the family/patient. Only facility approved and purchased fans will be allowed.
- H. This policy applies only to areas housing patients or areas designated for patient care.

References:

Joint Commission Standards FAQ Details

Attachments:

See reverse

Fans - Patient Care Areas

Print

Are fans allowed in patient care areas, laboratories, or other support areas in an organization?

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There are no specific Joint Commission standards that prohibit the use of fans. While fans may be used for additional comfort of the patient, such as those with respiratory distress or post cardiac surgery, they may indicate to surveyors that a temperature control or ventilation problem exists, as described by EC.02.05.01. Space temperature issues can impact equipment, patient testing results, and overall patient care. This concern usually arises after adding equipment or use of the space without increasing the capability of space cooling/ventilation. The organization should perform a risk assessment per EC.02.01.01 that includes the most appropriate persons available to the organization. Examples of assessment concerns could include: risks pertinent to the needs of the patient; ventilation and/or temperature concerns for equipment; airborne particles/contamination that may impact patient care, procedure/treatment processes or equipment operation; maintaining the cleanliness of fan blades/housing; possible tripping hazard(s) created by cords; etc. Infection control should be a key element in the assessment process. The survey process will evaluate the risk assessment for effectiveness and validate proper implementation of the resulting policy/practice. Adjustments to the implemented process are to be made as needed.

Last updated on February 21, 2018

RISK ASSESSMENT - Battery Operated Fans

Description of Risk	Describe how they might reduce risk of adverse outcomes via proposed solution
Fans if not maintained or inappropriately used or during a cleaning regime may introduce the risk of electrical shock due to electrical components within.	TREVA/O2COOL fans present no trip risk, fire, electric shock or entanglement risk due to being operated by low power dry cell batteries.
Fans are portable and therefore are subject to Portable Appliance Testing.	TREVA/O2COOL fans can be given to patient upon discharge—no maintenance is necessary.
Fans due to their manufacture and intended use have moving parts which may introduce the risk of entrapment and topple	TREVA/O2COOL fans are guarded and if the blades are obstructed, the fan will stall causing no harm or consequence.
Fans due to their manufacture may have an electric cable with possible introduction of a trip risk, and risk of fire, to staff, patients and visitors.	TREVA/O2COOL fans are battery operated. There is no cable and therefore no trip risk and no risk of electrical shock or fire.
Fans need to be cleaned and sanitized. To clean fans for reuse, they need to be disassembled. Cleaning fans can be extremely high maintenance and costly to have housekeeping or maintenance staff do this task properly.	TREVA/O2COOL fans are very inexpensive and can be used as a single patient use item and can be disposed of or sent home with the patient upon discharge.
Fan due to their construction may cause RFI radiation problems with nearby equipment.	TREVA/O2COOL battery operated fans are certified to the FCC Regulation Part 15 Subpart B for avoiding interference with hospital electronics and telemetry equipment



5-inch tabletop



5-inch clip



Antimicrobial plastic construction



4-inch clip



Necklace

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