

Thomason Hospital Memorandum

To: Medical Staff and Residents

From: Javier Gonzalez, RN

Date: 5/1/09

Re: Invasive Procedures Outside the OR

This memo serves as a reminder Universal Protocol needs to be followed when performing any invasive procedures in the OR and outside the OR. During the recent Joint Commission Resources consultant visit it was identified Universal Protocol, including time-outs, were not being followed.

Please remember to include the RN when performing invasive procedures on the floor. The RN is required to monitor the patient, document how the patient tolerated the procedure, document assessment for pain and any complications. I have attached the Universal Protocol and Time Out guidelines for further clarification. Below are FAQ from the Joint Commission web site.

Procedures Outside the OR

Q. What are the expectations for procedures being performed outside of the operating room or at designated procedure areas?

A. For procedures not being performed in operative or procedural areas, the verification processes and use of checklists is still required. The specific elements of the checklists and the specific processes for managing these situations is delineated by the organization.

Q. What procedures fall within the scope of the Universal Protocol?

A. The Protocol is not limited to operating rooms; it is relevant to all settings where procedures are performed. The Protocol and its implementation guidelines apply to all operative and other invasive procedures that expose patients to more than minimal risk. The Joint Commission's glossary defines invasive procedures as involving "the puncture or incision of the skin, insertion of an instrument, or insertion of foreign material into the body. Invasive procedures may be performed for diagnostic or treatment-related purposes."

While The Joint Commission does not specifically define the term minimal risk, certain routine "minor" procedures such as venipuncture, peripheral intravenous line placement, insertion of a naso-gastric tube or urinary bladder catheter are not within the scope of the Protocol. However, examples of procedures such as PICC line and all central line insertion, chest tube insertion and other similar types of common procedures are included. Please note that procedures specifically excluded from the Universal Protocol are electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), closed reduction, radiation oncology, lithotripsy and performance of dialysis (excluding insertion of dialysis catheters).....

Thank you.

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