



Patient Safety Techniques: Facilitating Healing in the Traumatically Brain Injured Patient

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CRAIG HOSPITAL

- Redefining possible for people with spinal cord and brain injuries
- Small non-profit independent acute rehabilitation facility

OUR PATIENT POPULATION

- Acute care of traumatically brain injured patients, ages 16–80
- Patients are often agitated, confused, confabulatory, anxious, un-insightful, with memory impairments
- Continued acute care needs pose additional challenges

SAFETY DEVICES

- Redirect a patient's attention away from potentially harmful behaviors
- Provide a safe environment for patient, staff, and family members
- Are not restrictive
- Do not meet requirements for restraint monitoring and documentation
- Provide considerate, respectful care
- Allow patients to maintain their dignity

TYPES OF SAFETY DEVICES

Posey Elbow Splint



Skin Sleeve



Wander/Elopement Alert



Helmet



SAFETY TECHNIQUES

BEHAVIOR

SOLUTIONS

Pulling tubes

- Diversion (TV, games)
- Hold something in hand (washcloth, toy)
- Cover access (abdominal binder, pillows)
- Tucked clothing, sheets

Getting out of bed

- Bed alarm
- Camera monitor
- Position bed against wall, bedside table next to bed

Hitting

- Hold hands with the patient
- Stay at least an arm's length away from patient
- Approach from patient's weak side

Roaming

- Close doors
- Redirect patient to activity in safe space

CLINICAL ROLES

- Initiate and document a thorough assessment of safety devices and techniques
- Safety plan is shared with the physician, and team collaboration occurs
- Interdependent team members bring their unique expertise to advance the patient's care plan
- Act as a role model and resource for patient and family members
- Provide a therapeutic environment with attention to comfort, toileting and feeding needs, and low stimulation

CONCLUSIONS

- Healing processes are optimized
- A serene, safe and structured environment is provided
- Restraints are often avoided
- Patient's independency is promoted
- Patient's autonomy is encouraged

CONTACT INFORMATION

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