**POLICY/ PROCEDURE**

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# PURPOSE

HOSPITAL is committed to the delivery of quality health care in a safe environment. The purpose of this policy is to support HOSP commitment by defining the circumstances and practices related to the use of electrical extension cords, A.C. adapters and multiple power strips.

# POLICY

It is the policy of HOSP to provide a safe environment of care for patients and staff by following electrical safety guidelines set by regulating agencies.

# PROCEDURE

* 1. (HOSP) shall declare in writing each year until the 2012 Life Safety Code is passed, the CMS waiver that authorizes power strip use under certain conditions. The CMS waiver S and C 14-46- LSC dated September 26, 2014 refers to the referenced 2012 edition of NFPA 99.
  2. The CMS waiver and this policy only apply to facilities that were constructed or renovated before September 26, 2014. Power strips are prohibited in all facilities designed, remodeled, or constructed after this date. The appropriate number of receptacles must be included in the design and construction of remodeled or new facilities. (NFPA 99 2012 edition 6.3.2.2.6.2)
  3. Power strips (relocatable power taps) must be UL rated as UL1363A or UL 60601-1 in patient care areas. Patient care area or patient bed location is defined in NFPA 99 (2012 edition) and is a patient sleeping area, patient sleeping bed, procedure table or critical care location. NFPA 99 (2012) 3.3.136. This area is defined as a 6 foot area around the bed location and extending 7 feet 6 inches vertically.
  4. Power strips may not be used to power non- patient care equipment, such as personal electronics.
  5. Power strips may be used outside of the patient care vicinity to power patient care and non- patient care related equipment. These power strips must meet the UL 1363 listing criteria.
  6. Power strips used to power pedestal or rack mounted equipment must meet the following:

1. The receptacles are permanently attached to the assembly.
2. The sum of the ampacity of all appliances connected to the receptacles shall not exceed 75 percent of the ampacity of the flexible cord supplying the receptacles.
3. The ampacity of the flexible cord is suitable in accordance with the current edition of NFPA 70, National Electric Code.
4. The electrical and mechanical integrity of the assembly is verified by the Biomedical Engineering Department and inventoried and documented in the equipment management computer system.
5. A sticker shall be applied to the power strip by Biomedical Engineering showing that the power strip meets the requirements as outlined in the CMS Memo.
6. All power strips will be inspected by Biomedical Engineering before the power strip is placed in service. The power strip shall meet the UL Requirements. Annually, all power strips will inspected by Biomedical Engineering to assure compliance with this policy. A new sticker shall be applied to all power strips after inspection.
7. Power strips shall never be plugged into each other (daisy chained).
8. Care should be used when using power strips in wet locations. (OR’s, decontamination areas).
9. The use of ground fault circuit interruption (GFCIs) may be required in locations near water sources to prevent electrocution.
10. They shall be of a type suitable for the particular application and shall be listed for use at a voltage and current rating equal to or greater than the rating of the device being plugged into it..
11. They shall be of a three conductor ground type cord and meet the requirements of NFPA 70, National Electric Code.
    1. Any device that interrupts the ground continuity of a medical device shall **NOT** be used. Including three prong to two prong adapters.
    2. Multiple outlet strips may be used within the “patient vicinity” for patient care equipment only provided they:
       1. Are permanently attached to the cart, rack, or cabinet, etc. in which the equipment being powered is mounted.
       2. Are **NON**-surge suppressor type strips. The surge protection devices used cause hazardous leakage current.
       3. The sum of the ampacity of all appliances connected to the outlets does not exceed 75 percent of the ampacity of the flexible cords supplying the outlets.
       4. The electrical and mechanical integrity of the assembly is regularly verified and documented.
       5. Means are employed to ensure that additional devices or nonmedical equipment cannot be connected to the multiple outlet extension cord after leakage currents have been verified.

Note: Extension cord and multiple outlet strips should be used with caution with attention to the introduction of trip hazards, increased likelihood of damage from laying on the floor and the ease with which the ground resistance and ampacity can be exceeded.

Hospital does not consider any single reference as an exclusive authority; however, the following reference(s) are noted:

Reference: NFPA 99 (Health Care Facilities)