
* ADDENDUM *

HACKETTSTOWN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Division of Nursing

Index: 7420.000
Addendum: #2
Issue Date: June 1, 1993
Review Date: May, 2002

TITLE: **LASER SAFETY**

I. Controlled Access

- A. Warning signs must be placed on all doors allowing entrance to the room.
- B. Appropriate eye protection will be placed outside room to facilitate safe entry.

II. Direct Supervision

- A. A trained nurse/technician will be responsible for enforcing safety guidelines and manning the laser during operation.
- B. The laser key will be kept with the narcotic keys.
- C. Laser operation will be checked and test fired prior to daily use.
- D. Operating laser physician must be certified or credentialed by the hospital for particular type of procedure and wavelength laser being used.
- E. Laser foot pedal must be controlled by operating physician only to prevent accidental firing of laser.
- F. Laser nurse/technician will place laser in **STANDBY** mode whenever system should not be fired or when laser fiber is not visible on monitor.

II. Avoid Direct Exposure To Laser Beam

- A. Protective eyewear must be worn at all times when working with the laser.
- B. Protective eyewear should be specific to the wavelength laser being used and have side shields for additional protection.
- C. Patient's eyes must be protected with laser eyewear or covered with wet sponges and this must be documented.
- D. Window coverings must be used.

III. Avoid Fire Hazards

- A. Do not use flammable preps or chemical agents (i.e., alcohol, benzoin).
- B. A basin of water or saline will be available to extinguish any flame.

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- C. Fire extinguishers are located in each room for immediate use.
- D. Use a smoke evacuator to remove smoke of vaporized tissue (plume). When a smoke evacuator is unavailable or impractical, standard suction may be used with a filter to prevent clogging of suction by plume.
- E. Anesthesia must select the appropriate type of endotracheal tube to minimize the hazards of laser airway surgery.
- F. A wet towel should be kept on the field to isolate laser fiber whenever it is not encased in a protective sheath.
- G. A wet sponge will be used to pack the rectum when working around the anus.