LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
- SHREVEPORT

PATIENTS ON NON-LSU PATIENT CARE EQUIPMENT

Purpose:

To delineate the roles and responsibilities of personnel in the provision of care of patients arriving at the LSU-HSC Hospital on equipment that is not the hospital property.

Policy:

1. LSUHSC assumes total care and responsibility for all patients upon arrival. A report of the patient’s status and pertinent medical information must be provided by those transporting patients to the facility. This report shall be given to the patient care area receiving the patient.

2. The patient will be assessed by an RN immediately following transfer. Assessment shall include heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, temperature and, if the patient is receiving supplemental oxygen and/or ventilator support oxygen saturation. The RN will document the patient’s assessment in the medical record.

3. As a general rule, patients shall be transferred to hospital equipment upon arrival to LSU-HSC. However, the attending physician may determine that it is in the best interest of the patient to leave them on their personal equipment rather than change them to hospital equipment for the duration of their visit. Factors considered in making this decision shall include the availability of clinically equivalent equipment, length of time the patient has used the equipment, clinical history and stability of the patient and competency of personnel to properly maintain and monitor the equipment. Should the decision be made for the patient to remain on their personal equipment, Biomedical Engineering must be contacted to certify the equipment for use in the hospital. The physician must write an order in the patient’s medical record stating they are to remain on their personal equipment rather than be transferred to hospital equipment.

4. The patient registered as an outpatient with life-supporting equipment shall be allowed to remain on the equipment for the duration of the outpatient clinic visit. The patient shall be assessed by an RN upon arrival and monitored for the duration of the visit; the ventilator shall be checked by Respiratory Therapy to ensure appropriate functioning. Both the patient and equipment assessment shall be documented in the patient’s medical record. Hospital gases and/or electrical sources shall be made available to the patient as needed.

5. Hospital personnel shall be responsible for facilitating safe transportation of patients on the premises, including, but not limited to the necessary equipment and gas
sources needed for transport. Transport of the patient on life support equipment shall be minimized; testing and treatment shall occur in the patient care area whenever possible. In those cases where these patients must be transported to a non-nursing care area, an RN shall accompany the patient. Respiratory Therapy personnel shall assist with the transport of ventilator patients. The RN is responsible for assessing the patient and for ensuring that the appropriate level of monitoring is performed based upon clinical indications and the patient’s medical history.