LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - SHREVEPORT

FAN USE POLICY

Purpose:

While fans may be used for additional comfort, care must be taken to decrease the risk of infection of patients or healthcare workers and adverse effects on patient testing results from microorganisms borne on air currents. This policy is intended to guide clinicians, patients, and families in the selection and use of fans.

Policy:

1. Before a fan is allowed in a patient room or work area, staff should attempt other comfort measures including adjusting the thermostat and contacting Physical Plant if the room cannot be adequately cooled.

2. Fans are contraindicated and prohibited in the following areas and conditions:
   a. Isolation Rooms
   b. Critical Care Units
   c. Nursery/Pediatrics
   d. Surgery/PACU
   e. Emergency Department
   f. IV Pharmacy/admixture clean rooms
   g. Behavioral Units/Crisis Unit
   h. Central Sterile Supply
   i. Instrument Decontamination/Preparation Areas
   j. Nutrition/Food Preparation Areas
   k. Microbiology (except where necessary to cool equipment)
   l. Rooms of patients with open wounds or drainage that is not confined and covered by a bandage.
   m. Non healed tracheostomy

   *Exceptions will be made only on a case by case basis in consultation with the unit manager and the Infection Control Department.

3. Fans will be:
   a. Stand style fans, not table top or tower fans (See illustration).
   b. Provided by the patient or their family, and will be new and sealed in the original container.
   c. Sent with the patient upon transfer or discharge.
   d. Positioned to blow at the patient’s bed level or higher and not blowing across dirty or dusty surfaces.
   e. Positioned so that they do not blow directly across non-intact skin or open surgical wounds.

   *Exceptions will be made only on a case by case basis in consultation with the unit manager and the Infection Control Department.
e. Turned off while invasive or sterile procedures are being performed in the room, including but not limited to IV insertions, central line insertions, dressing changes, dressing removal, and urinary catheter insertion.

f. Not used within 5 feet of an oxygen source.

g. Cords placed to minimize the risk of tripping or falling.

4. Fans are strongly discouraged in multiple patient rooms. If a fan is necessary and the patient cannot be moved to a private room, their roommate (s) must be assessed, and the fan prohibited if any of the above contraindications are present. The fan must be positioned so that it does not blow toward the roommate, the privacy curtains must be kept closed, and the fan must not be allowed to oscillate.

5. Fans are allowed in Nursing Stations only after Physical Plant has verified that the air handler cannot be adjusted to maintain comfortable temperatures. Nurse Managers will be responsible to ensure that Nursing Station fans are disassembled and cleaned at least weekly with disinfectant, ensuring that all dust is removed from blades, grills, and fan housing. A log will be maintained that verifies the date cleaned and the initials of the person who cleaned the fan.

6. Prior to use, all fans will be taken in their original container to the Biomed department for inspection.