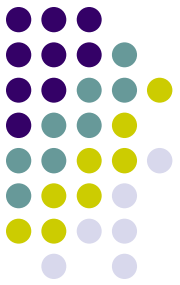


Guidelines for Good Practice (Summary)

Safety Issues in a Children's Hospital



Janet Coldrick
Allocations Liaison Officer
NPDU/July 08, Adapted July
2009



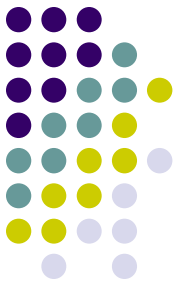
RATIONALE

- Aim of nursing profession is to give the highest standard of care possible

(ABA, 2002)

- Everyone has an obligation and duty to ensure the protection/security and safety of those in our care.

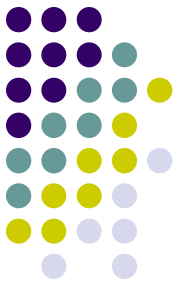
(OLCHC,2007)



Good Practice (Summary)

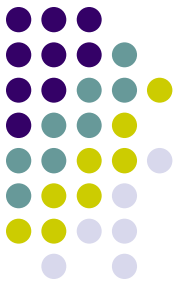
- Children:-
 - should be admitted to hospital only if care can't be provided at home / Day Care
 - have the right to have a parent present, unless contra-indicated
 - over 16 have the right to refuse treatment
 - should be cared for by appropriately qualified staff
- All intimate examinations should be supervised

Forms of Abuse



- Neglect
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Physical

Emotional Abuse



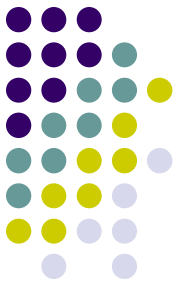
Physical Indicators

- Sudden speech disorders
- Wetting and soiling
- Signs of mutilation
- Attention seeking behaviour
- Non-organic failure to thrive

Behavioural Indicators

- Rocking, thumb sucking
- Fear of change
- Chronic runaway
- Poor peer relationships
- Low self-esteem

Sexual Abuse



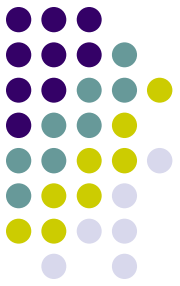
Physical Indicators

- Soreness, itching in genital area
- Bruises on inner thighs or buttocks
- Lack of concentration
- Eating disorders
- Pregnancy, STDs
- Psychomatic complaints

Behavioural Indicators

- Inappropriate language, sexual knowledge for age group
- Chronic depression, low self-esteem
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour
- Truancy
- Substance/drug abuse

Physical Abuse



Physical Indicators

- **Scratches**
- **Bite marks or welts**
- **Bruises in places difficult to mark eg behind ears, groin etc**
- **Burns, scalds**
- **Fractures**
- **Untreated injuries**
- **Haemorrhages**
- **Poisonings**

Behavioural Indicators

- **Self mutilation tendencies**
- **Chronic runaway**
- **Aggressive or withdrawn**
- **Covering up/refusing to participate in sports**
- **Undue fear of adults**

Neglect



Physical Indicators

- Exposed to danger; lack of supervision
- Malnourishment
- Inadequate/inappropriate clothing
- Poor hygiene
- Untreated illness
- Exploited, overworked

Behavioural Indicators

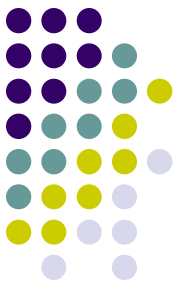
- Tiredness, listlessness
- Lack of peer relationships
- Low self-esteem
- Compulsive stealing/begging

Possible Child Abuse and Neglect by Staff



- Hitting or hurting
- Breaking down self-confidence
- Leaving without supervision
- Teasing unnecessarily
- Verbally abuse
- Exposure to pornographic acts or literature
- Inappropriate
 - touching of a child
- Neglecting a child's
 - medical needs
 - educational needs
 - emotional needs
- Not taking proper care of a child

Reporting, documenting and inquiry into Allegation of Child Abuse



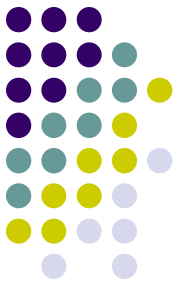
- Any person who suspects/knows that a child is (at risk of) being harmed has a duty to convey concerns to a senior member of staff.
- The staff member is not responsible for deciding whether or not abuse has occurred but is obliged to report and document suspicions so action can be taken
- All complaints will be:-
 - strictest confidence
 - thoroughly investigated in a discreet manner
- Reporting and documenting process (See Page 15)

Clinical Safety

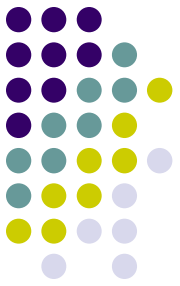


- Nursing assessment on admission
- Legible identity bracelets
- Good documentation (nursing and medical)
- Ensuring orders understood and delivered timely
- Ward safety checks (each shift)
- Patient allocation

Clinical Safety



- Good interdisciplinary communication
- Relevant observations performed and reported appropriately
- Bleep Emergency Team – 2222
- Crash trolley location



Medication Safety

- Double checking medications at bedside
- Legible prescriptions
- Wait until medications swallowed

- Don't leave:-
 - meds on lockers
 - drugs trolley unsupervised when open

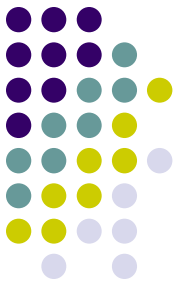
- MDA (checks and keys)

Environmental Safety



-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
- Adherence to hand washing procedures at all times.

Hand Hygiene






Handwashing is the single most important measure for preventing infection.

Front



Back



-  Least frequently missed
-  Less frequently missed
-  Most frequently missed



Physical Safety

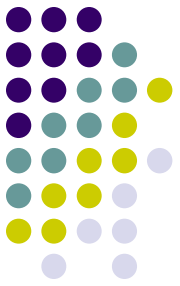
- Appropriate supervision-
 - age specific
 - eating, cutting up food
 - bathing
 - appropriate toys etc
 - Intervene early in unruly behaviour to prevent accidents
- Infants:-
 - positioning
 - use of pillows
- Sedated children and infant:
 - use of trolley/wheelchairs for transport
 - monitoring Equipment
 - fasting status etc



Physical Safety

- **Access to hospital controlled:–**
 - Swipe Cards
 - CCTV
 - Coded Doors
- **Contact Security** (if unsure):– (Bleep 8700)
- **Prompt detection and reporting** of faulty equipment

Access of People to Children



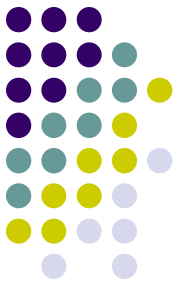
- Staff must be aware of:-
 - who visitors are
 - security at all times
- Visitors not permitted to:-
 - visit others
 - wander around hospital
- Curtains:-
 - only closed with permission of charge nurse
- All staff must:-
 - identify themselves clearly and comply with wearing identification badges

Guidelines for managing children with challenging behaviour



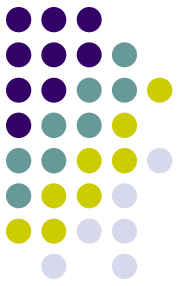
- Take child aside
- Explain why behaviour not acceptable
- Establish patterns
- Be consistent
- Inform nursing administration of (potential) problems
- Separate from others (where possible)
- Document all incidents and report

What if an accident happens?

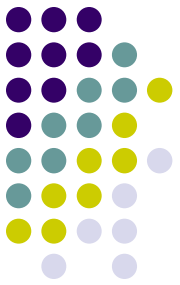


- Check the patient first
- Prevent further harm
- Administer first aid
- Ensure review by medical team
- Inform parents
- Inform nursing administration
- Document ASAP using appropriate incident form

Responsibilities of the Nurse



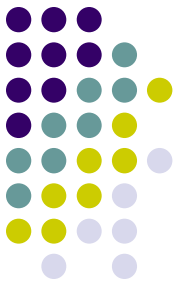
- Preventative action
- Ensure adequate supervision at all times
- Sharing experiences / learning from mistakes
- Help to devise solutions
- Work with parents and other team members
- Create atmosphere of openness, honesty and fairness
- Awareness of policies and procedures



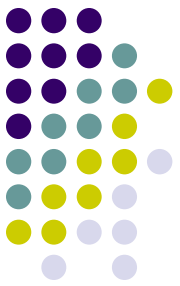
Summary

- Ensure child is correctly assessed on admission
- Intervene and report accidents promptly
- Report all suspicions of child abuse
- Don't place yourself in vulnerable position and/or open to misinterpretation
- **USE COMMON SENSE !!!**

DON'T FORGET!!!!!!



- Read full Guidelines which are available in all clinical areas



References

- OLCCHC (2007) Guidelines for Good Practice, OLCCHC, Dublin.
- An Bord Altranais (2000) Code of Professional Conduct, An Bord Altranais, Dublin.
- National Patient Safety Agency (2003) Seven Steps to Patient Safety
- Leape L.(2002) Striving for Perfection,
- Dept of Health & Children (1999) Children First, Dept of Health & Children, Dublin.