

# CQI Alerts

Autumn  
2003

OBSERVATIONS BY THE CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR UWMC ANESTHESIOLOGY



## MEDICATION EXCHANGE TRAYS

*When returning the trays to Pharmacy please remember to do the following:*

- Partially used vials and syringes should be disposed of in the OR room and not returned to Pharmacy
- Partially used vials and syringes of **controlled substances** should be placed in the small plastic bag included with your meds and returned to pharmacy for destruction.
- **Any unopened /unused controlled substance** vials and syringes being returned to Pharmacy for credit should NOT be placed in the bag with the partial vials and syringes.
- If any of the medication vials / syringes or tray has visual signs of contamination (blood) please clean the tray, throw away the vial/syringe, or if a controlled substance put in a biohazard bag before returning it to Pharmacy.
- Remove all needles from syringes before returning syringe to Pharmacy or placing syringe in the night box.



## PATIENT ID BANDS

*If you remove the patient's ID band to start a line, IV etc., remember to place a new ID band on the patient.*

- The ankles are alternate sites.
- The nurse in the room is able to get a new ID band made for you.
- Patient's **MUST** have an ID band on when leaving the OR room.

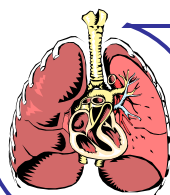


## SWAN PLACEMENT

- When unable to place a Tegaderm over the insertion site remember to stitch it in with a good amount of skin. If there isn't an adequate amount of skin the suture is liable to tear through the skin and the line become displaced



**More Alerts  
on Other Side**



## NEW NIF MONITORS

*Have you seen or used the new NIF monitors yet?*

- If not, ask an anesthesia tech about them – they will be glad to show the monitors to you.

## LAB SPECIMENS



- When sending lab specimens each tube needs a patient label, and a requisition with patient identification information is needed. If not, the lab will not run the test(s) and they will return the specimens

## PATIENT PRIVACY

*Keeping patient medical records confidential.*



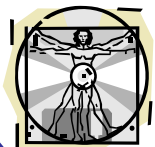
There has been an increase in a number of patient identifiable and Protected Health Information (PHI) documents being found in the waste containers, black trash bags, and lying around the area. Please dispose of documents, labels, etc with PHI in the locked blue recycling contains in the OR (more are being ordered for the OR), in PACU, at the front desk in Surgery, in the Anesthesia Library, and in Pre-surgery Clinic. When in different departments or nursing units inquire where the locked bins are located.

Also when discussing a case if unable to find a private area, check to be sure no one is around (don't forget about those patients behind the curtains), and keep your voices low.

Being a teaching institution we need to share information and discuss patients for educational purposes, but we also need to be mindful of our patients' privacy.

## ANESTHESIOLOGY PROTOCOLS

*Do you know where to find the Anesthesia Protocols?*



- Paper copies are available in bins in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Anesthesiology Library in the UWMC main OR area.
- Digital copies are available on the department's website: [www.uwanesthesiology.org](http://www.uwanesthesiology.org). under the section, 'Tools for Staff' or at the URL: [www.uwanesthesiology.org/protocols](http://www.uwanesthesiology.org/protocols)
- There is also a lot of other information that can be found on the website – check it out.

## DID YOU KNOW...



- There is now a Cook Frova Intubation stylet on every anesthesia cart.
- If blades and LMAs aren't put to soak ASAP after use, secretions, blood, etc. dries on them and it is more difficult to clean the items.

**More Alerts  
on Other Side**