

A BRIEF LOOK AT - MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SAFETY



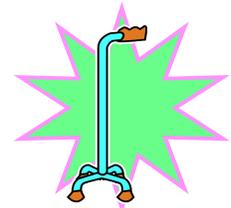
In addition to the Agency's other policies, procedures, and trainings, as well as the information in other "A Brief Look" lessons, consideration should be given to safety related to the use of medical equipment in the home.



In today's home care environment, patients/clients have the opportunity to use many types of home medical equipment. Also called "durable medical equipment" (DME), the items are intended to withstand repeated use by non-professionals and are appropriate for home use.



There must be a doctor's order. Medicare or private insurance may pay for the DME. The nurse will document its use in the patient's/client's record.



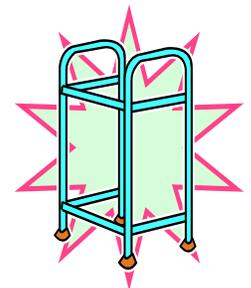
The Registered Nurse (RN) will assess the patient's/client's and/or caregiver's ability to set up, monitor, and change equipment reliably and safely, as well as clean/store/dispose of equipment or supplies using proper technique learned from the DME supplier.



The DME supplier is responsible for proper delivery and initial setup of the equipment. The DME representative should ensure the home environment is suitable and safe for proper usage of the equipment.



The DME representative is responsible for training the patient/client, family, and caregivers on the proper usage and maintenance of the equipment. There should be 24 hour contact information provided, as well, in the event of equipment malfunction or other emergency.



The nurse will reinforce using the DME correctly and reviewing any areas of non-compliance with the patient/client regularly. It is expected the patient/client will follow the manufacturer's instructions and those given by the DME representative.

The Agency will also follow the requirements of the Safe Medical Device Act (the Act) to identify, report, and correct medical device incidents. These include serious injury and death to the patient/client. Agency staff will be oriented to the Act upon hire and annually thereafter. The Administrator or designee will be responsible for determining when a reportable event has occurred and s/he will complete all required documentation and, if applicable the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) reports.

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QUIZ

1. Medical equipment used in the home is also known as durable health equipment (DHE).
 True
 False

2. The use of medical equipment in the home requires a physician's order and documentation in the record.
 True
 False

3. The DME supplier is responsible for proper delivery and initial setup of the equipment.
 True
 False

4. The Agency will follow the rules of the Safe Medical Device Act unless the patient/client dies as nothing can be done then.
 True
 False

Signature

Date

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ANSWER KEY

1. FALSE
2. TRUE
3. TRUE
4. FALSE