Facilities Development Division
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
400 R Street, Suite 200 • Sacramento, CA 95811 • (916) 440-8300
700 N. Alameda Street, Suite 2-500 • Los Angeles, CA 90012 • (213) 897-0166

POLICY INTENT NOTICE (PIN)

SUBJECT

Temporary Wireless Nurse Call System

PIN: **60**

Effective: **8/7/2014**

PURPOSE

Nurse call systems are required in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities according to California Building Code (CBC) Sections 1224.4.6.5 and 1225.4.1.7. Nurse call services must be maintained during replacement of a permanent nurse call system if patients are present in the nursing unit. While it is preferable to bring up a new permanent nurse call system in tandem with existing nurse call system, this may not always be convenient. A temporary wireless nurse call system may be used during demolition and installation of the permanent nurse call system in order to maintain nurse call services to the nurse unit.

This policy intent notice describes the minimum requirements for the temporary wireless nurse call system.

POLICY

The requirements for a temporary wireless nurse call system depend on the type of patient care area and length of time that the temporary wireless nurse call system will be in service. Patient care areas are classified as either *General Care Areas* or *Critical Care Areas* as defined in Article 517.2 of the California Electrical Code (CEC):

- *General Care Areas:* Patient bedrooms, examination rooms, treatment rooms, clinics, and similar areas in which it is intended that the patient will come in contact with ordinary appliances such as a nurse call system, electric beds, examining lamps, telephones, and entertainment devices.

- *Critical Care Areas:* Those special care units, intensive care units, coronary care units, angiography laboratories, cardiac catheterization laboratories, delivery rooms, operating rooms, post-operative recovery rooms and similar areas in which patients are intended to be subjected to invasive procedures and connected to line-operated, electromedical devices.

The minimum requirements for a temporary wireless nurse call system are as follows.

A. When used in *General Care Areas* for up to 30 days:

   1. Temporary wireless nurse call systems shall consist of a patient station at each patient bed location; a bath station at each patient toilet, bath, and shower; and a nurse master station that communicates with these devices.

2. Patient stations and bath stations can be wireless pendants or similar devices.

3. The call systems shall be designed to require resetting at the calling station unless a two-way voice communication component is included in the system, otherwise two-way voice communication between the calling station and nurse master station is not required.

4. Temporary wireless nurse call devices do not need to be UL 1069 listed.

5. Temporary wireless nurse call devices that are not battery powered shall be connected to the critical branch in hospitals and to the life safety branch in skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities.

6. Dome lights above the corridor doors of patient bedrooms are required. Dome lights above the doors of toilet rooms, bath rooms, and shower rooms are not required.

7. Dome lights at corridor intersections of multi-corridor nursing units are not required.

8. Duty stations in the clean workroom, soiled workroom, medication preparation room, exam/treatment rooms and staff lounge are not required.

9. Patient room smoke detectors, if connected by a relay base to the old nurse call system, will not be required to be connected to the temporary wireless nurse call system and will not be required to provide visual alarm in the corridor. However, the patient room smoke detector shall remain connected to the fire alarm system and be operational.

10. An audible signal and light indicating the room from which the call originates shall be located at the nurses' stations.

B. Any deviation of the above requirements shall be approved in writing by licensing.

C. When used in *General Care Areas* for greater than 30 days, temporary wireless nurse call system shall meet all of the requirements of CEC 517.123 and CBC Table 1224.4.6.5.

D. When used in *Critical Care Areas* for any length of time, temporary wireless nurse call system shall meet all of the requirements of CEC 517.123 and CBC Table 1224.4.6.5.

PROCEDURE

Approved construction documents for a nurse call system replacement project shall clearly describe the method that will be used to maintain nurse call services during the replacement project installation. When a temporary nurse call system is utilized to maintain nurse call services, sequence of work shall indicate that temporary nurse call devices are installed and tested prior to decommissioning and removal of the existing

permanent nurse call system and must remain operational until the new permanent nurse call system is tested and accepted by the Inspector of Record and the OSHPD Compliance Officer. The temporary and permanent nurse call installation, testing and inspection shall be delineated on the Testing, Inspection and Observation program in accordance with Part 1, Title 24, Section 7-141. Approved construction documents shall include a list of all required temporary devices and their locations. Branch circuits for temporary nurse call equipment requiring AC power shall be identified.

Original signed	8/7/14
Paul Coleman	Date