

Health Care Safety Walk

There's no such thing as being too safe in a health care lab or classroom. The students, as well as the teacher, should be aware of hazards in the health care lab or classroom and how to avoid them in order to prevent injury. The following checklist can be used as a guide:

Adaptation – Safety walk can be done in a health care co-operative education placement setting or in the student's own home

For more examples, see also: <http://www.lrws.gov.sk.ca/classroom-hazard-hunt>

Emergency Planning

- An emergency plan is posted for the classroom/lab and all staff (including supply teachers) and students are aware of it.
- Staff and students know the location of the nearest phone
- Staff and students know the location of the nearest first aid kit
- Staff and students know location of nearest emergency eye-wash station
- PA system is functional so main office can be called for help, if needed

Physical Environment

- Doors, entry ways, corridors, aisles, and emergency exits are free and clear (nothing stored or blocking access/egress).
- Room has proper and sufficient lighting
- When students are working on skills that involve water usage (e.g. handwashing or bathing with basins of water), a “the person to find the spill wipes up the spill” policy is instituted to ensure no slip and fall accidents
- Privacy curtains (for health care skills) do not obstruct teacher supervision of all students
- There are no tripping hazards present (e.g. hospital bed cranks are turned inward, students store their knapsacks in lockers)

Infection Control

- Soap dispensers and antibacterial hand sanitizer dispensers are in proper working condition and refilled as needed
- Eating is not permitted in classroom/lab

- Garbage is emptied daily
- Laundry is laundered routinely and when visibly soiled

WHMIS

- All students have completed WHMIS training and Passport to Safety before being permitted into the health care lab or before any skills are performed
- All teaching staff have completed up-to-date WHMIS training
- WHMIS guidelines are followed for all cleaning and disinfecting (including use of Personal Protective Equipment)
- All chemicals (e.g. cleaners) are stored in a locked cabinet. All teachers who use the room have access to the key.
- Each and every chemical-containing spray bottle, container, can, bottle or box is WHMIS labeled (product name, safety precautions / handling precautions and reference an MSDS).
- Each and every chemical product in the lab is listed and in compliance with the Board's WHMIS policy (red binder in main office). If you have a product that has not been vetted nor listed by the employer per its name and corresponding MSDSs then there may be a non-compliance problem.
- MSDSs for your products are present and match that of the Board's approved products (red binder in main office). Ensure that no MSDSs are present that are 3 years old or more. MSDSs are only valid for 3 years.
- MSDS binder is stored in full view all and teachers and students are aware of its whereabouts
- Sharps container for bio-hazardous wastes is used for all sharps and is exchanged routinely according to Board policy.

Personal Protective Equipment

- All staff/teachers and students are wearing closed toe and heel shoes.
- Personal Protective Equipment (gloves safety glasses, goggles/face shields, masks, gowns) is available for both teachers/staff and all students (in sufficient quantity and maintained in good condition)
- Latex products are used minimally or avoided (e.g. gloves) to protect against allergies

Equipment

- Check equipment (e.g. hospital beds, mannequins, BP cuffs) regularly to determine they are in good working condition
- Teachers are aware of location of user manuals, operating instructions and safety manuals for all equipment
- Hospital bed rails are present and used for practicing client care to ensure that no student falls out of bed
- Hospital bed brakes, wheelchair brakes and walker brakes are functional for practicing all skills
- Hospital beds have height features that raise and lower properly to ensure bed is at appropriate height for bed-making
- Board lock-out/tag-out protocols are followed for all broken/non-functional equipment

Electrical Considerations

- All electrical panels and e-stops (if applicable) have a 1metre (3 foot) clearance and are not blocked or have any items stored against them or in front / beside them
- 3-prong (not 2-prong) electrical cords are used throughout the classroom
- Extension cords are used minimally or according to Board policy

Mechanical Lift (if applicable)

- Staff perform monthly assessment of mechanical lift, ensuring that safety lowering device is present and functional, there is no fraying, etc.
- Manufacturer performs annual assessment of mechanical lift
- All staff are trained in the use of the mechanical lift by the manufacturer
- All students are trained in mechanical lift and sign safety passport (see safety passports in Safe-docs) before being permitted to use lift