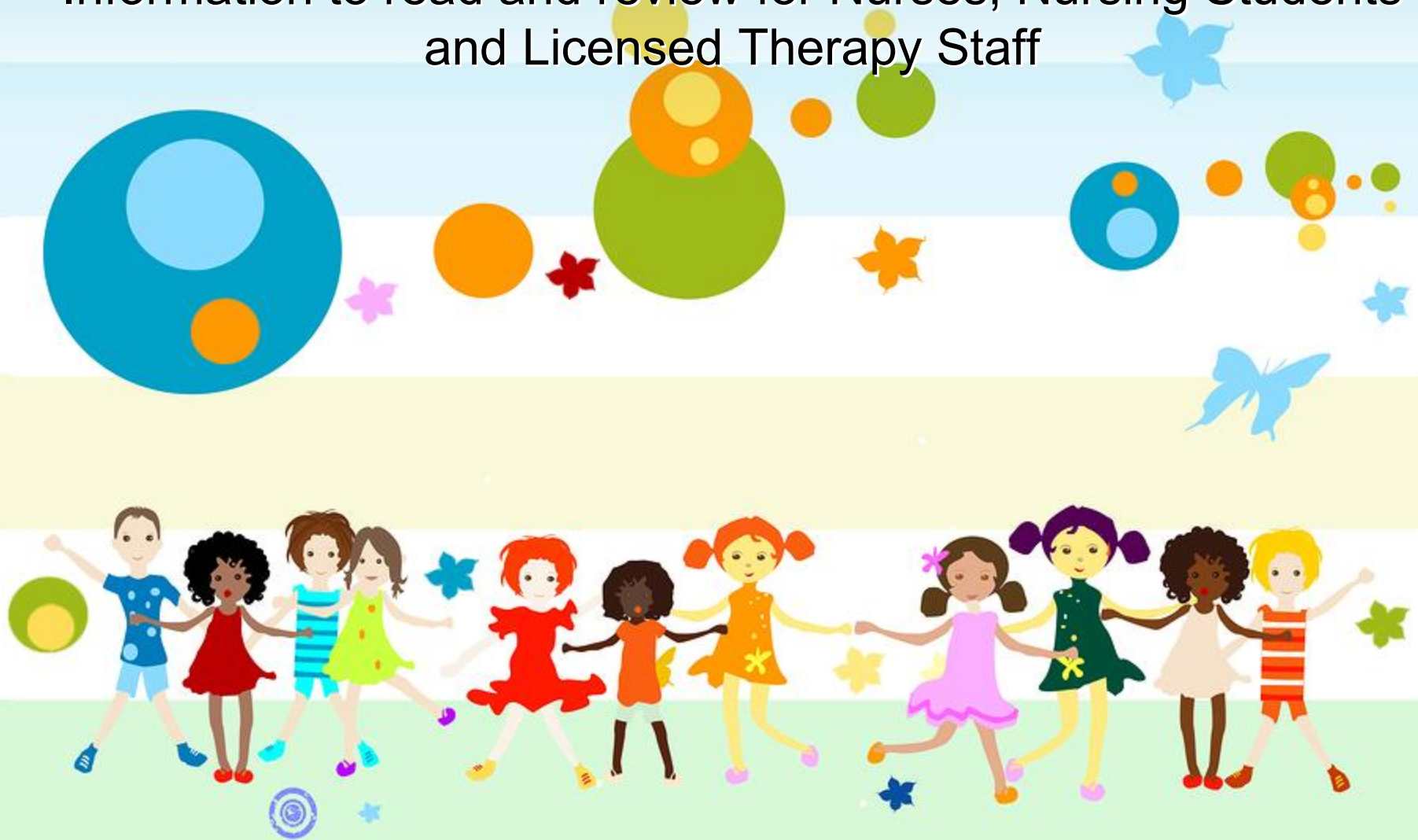


Pediatric Patient Safety

Information to read and review for Nurses, Nursing Students
and Licensed Therapy Staff



A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The text "Learner Outcomes" is overlaid in the center of the illustration.

Learner Outcomes

After you read this slide show, you will be able to:

- Identify ways to keep children safe in the hospital setting
- Provide safe care of a child in the hospital setting

A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing bright, casual clothing. The background is a light yellow sky and green ground.

Management of the Environment of care

Key Point: **Prevention** of accidents and injuries is critical!

- Child-proof the environment to the fullest extent possible
- Teach safety to parents and children
- Learn & model safe practices for children and families
- Use High Reliability Organization (HRO) principles!

This module reviews ways to keep children safe in this setting

A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The text "HRO 'CHAMP' acronym" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters across the center of the illustration.

HRO "CHAMP" acronym

- Communicate Clearly
- Handoff effectively
- Attention to detail
- Mentor each other: 200% accountability
- Practice & Accept a questioning attitude



Ensure Safety as the Highest Priority

- Before performing any procedure or giving a child medication, practice “**time out**” to check for accuracy.
 - (use **STAR**- Stop, think, act, review...check the “rights”)
- When leaving the unit for break, report on & off duty: “**Hand Off Effectively**” to a covering nurse.
 - Use structured communication during handoffs-
 - **SBAR** (Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation).
- *Voluntarily report occurrences* (an unusual event or incident involving your patient).
 - To identify system problems & prevent future errors.
 - To keep patient safe/ free of adverse consequences.

An illustration of a diverse group of children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing colorful clothing and are smiling. The background is a light yellow sky and green grass.

Ensure Safety as the Highest Priority

- Practice teamwork.
 - Get help with an active infant, toddler or child.
- Include patients and families in activities.
 - Demonstrate safe practices.

A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The title 'Medication Safety' is overlaid in large, bold, black text across the center of the illustration.

Medication Safety

If you will be giving medications-

- Lock medication carts when not in use
- Do not leave medications at bedside
- Check calculations of medications.
Overdose of meds can be lethal.
- Get help when administering
immunizations to infants or small children

A colorful illustration of a diverse group of children of various ethnicities and ages playing in a park. They are wearing bright, casual clothing and are in various playful poses, some jumping and some running. The background is a simple green field under a light sky.

Ventilator and Equipment Safety for students and new hires

- **Alarms:**

- *Students- Do not silence ventilator or pulse oximeter alarms without your instructor, a nurse or respiratory therapist in attendance with you.*
- *New nurse or RT hires will be validated by preceptors before silencing alarms.*

- **Ventilators:** When moving your patient-Seek help

- **RT is responsible to unplug and re-plug** the ventilator to wall.
- **RT is responsible to change settings** on the ventilator or pulse oximeter

- For difficulty breathing, cyanosis, or decannulation:

CALL FOR HELP! This is an emergency!

A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The text "Feeding tube safety" is overlaid in large, bold, black font across the center of the illustration.

Feeding tube safety

- Nurses must disconnect and reconnect feeding tube before patient is transferred from one level to another (e.g. bed to chair)
- C.N.A. and unlicensed staff may place feed on “hold”, but nurse is responsible for the disconnect and reconnect (restart)
- Reconnect tube into correct port (e.g. Jejunostomy vs. Gastrostomy)
- Good communication is essential to prevent inadvertent tube dislodgement

A colorful illustration of a diverse group of children of various ethnicities and ages playing in a park. They are wearing bright, casual clothing and are in various playful poses, some holding hands, some jumping, and some playing with a ball. The background is a simple green field under a yellow sky.

Hazards for small children: Suffocation Hazards

FACT: 60% of infant suffocations occur in the sleeping environment.

CAUSES OF SUFFOCATION:

- Infant face wedged against or buried in a mattress, pillow, infant cushion or other soft bedding.
- Person in the same bed rolled over onto the baby.
- Baby's mouth and/or nose covered by plastic bag or other item in bed.

A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing various brightly colored clothing. The word "FALLS" is written in large, bold, black capital letters across the center of the illustration.

FALLS

- Small children and infants are at risk for falls
 - Ensure siderails are up and latched
 - For climbers: Make sure the “bubble top” is latched on the crib
 - Use Seat belts on high chairs/infant seats
 - When side rail is down, never turn your back on the child or walk away



Hazards for small children: Suffocation Hazards

PREVENTION:

- Keep plastic bags out of reach of child!
 - Use pillowcase or plastic box for toys and/or clothes going home.
- Latex balloons are prohibited. Use Mylar balloons instead.
- Remove excess pillows, comforters, stuffed toys from cribs.
- Remove hygiene items, diapers and non-essential items from cribs.
- Use infant sleeper garment or swaddle to keep the infant warm; tuck a light blanket that goes no higher than the chest.
- Follow “Back to sleep” safety for infants under 12 months to prevent SIDS.
- Place infants to sleep in infant crib/bed, not chairs or other soft surfaces.

A colorful illustration of a diverse group of children of various ethnicities and ages playing together on a green lawn. They are wearing bright, casual clothing and some are holding hands, suggesting a game or dance. The background is a simple gradient of light green and yellow.

Hazards for small children: Furniture/ Heavy Item Tip-over

FACT:

8,000 to 10,000 Emergency Department visits annually are related to furniture tipping over (mostly children). *

Serious injuries or death occur as a result of climbing on furniture: e.g. shelves, bookcases, dressers, TV stands, etc.

- [See U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) website for more information



PREVENTION:

- Heavy items: Keep on lower shelves and in drawers
 - TVs, equipment or toys within reach might encourage climbing behavior
- Tie up loose cords (can lead to hazardous situations):
 - Pulled cords (attached to a heavy appliance) can cause head injury or death.
 - Hanging blind cords are potential strangulation hazards.

A colorful illustration of a diverse group of children of various ethnicities and ages playing in a park. They are wearing bright, casual clothing and are in various playful poses, some with arms raised. The background is a simple green field under a yellow sky.

Hazards for small children: Entrapment

FACT:

Children, especially toddlers, look for places to hide when playing

Hazardous hiding places include:

- Hospital beds and cribs
- Under equipment
- Electrical beds can pose a serious risk if controls are activated and child becomes entrapped under the bed
 - Limbs pinched or caught in hospital equipment
- Toddlers and Preschoolers should not be allowed to play with bed controls



Hazards for small children: Entrapment

PREVENTION:

- Leave beds in lowest position when not performing care
- Lock out the bed controls to prevent small children from activating bed movement
- Minimize storage of toys under beds to discourage children from climbing under bed
- Mattresses should fit bed frame snugly. Report mis-sized bedding to charge nurse, unit or shift manager



Hazards for small children: Toys & Choking

FACT: Choking is a leading cause of death in infants and small children

PREVENTION:

- Choose age-appropriate toys
 - Look for choking hazard safety labels
- Inspect toys regularly for damage:
 - Small, loose pieces
 - Sharp edges
- Dispose of unsafe toys
- Use small parts tester

Remember:

Toys smaller than the inside diameter of a toilet tissue tube are too small

A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green grassy field. The children are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The title "Choking Hazards" is overlaid in large, bold, black text across the center of the illustration.

Choking Hazards

- Choice of food for small children:
 - Chop or cut food into small bite sized pieces for toddlers and small children.
 - Avoid choking hazards such as hotdogs, popcorn, chips, whole grapes, hard candies, etc.
 - Follow the child's menu set up with the dietician.
- Dispose of choking hazards such as small caps & equipment pieces

A colorful illustration of a group of diverse children of various ethnicities and ages playing together in a grassy field. They are holding hands and jumping joyfully. The children are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The background is a simple gradient of light green and yellow.

Nosocomial Infection Prevention

FACT: Microbes can live for days, weeks and even months on surfaces

INFECTION PREVENTION:

- Don't share soft, fluffy toys between patients
- Clean hospital toys between patients and after use
 - Clean with antimicrobial wipes, mild soap and water, or dishwasher are all acceptable methods.
- Supervise children at play.
 - Pay particular attention when older children are playing with or around infants

A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The title "Transportation Safety" is overlaid in large, bold, black text across the center of the illustration.

Transportation Safety

Out Passes

- Prior to pass with parent/guardian:
 - Staff will verbally confirm use of a car seat, seat belt or other approved devices/ vehicles specific to the child's needs
 - HSC does not loan car seats

A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The title "Transportation Safety" is overlaid in large, bold, black text across the center of the illustration.

Transportation Safety

FACT: Connecticut law requires proper seat belt restraints and car seats for children.

- Children who are transported to and from the hospital will use appropriate transport safety devices.
- Upon discharge, staff escorting parents will verify car seat placement in the vehicle and document accordingly.

A colorful illustration of a diverse group of children holding hands in a circle, standing on a green field under a yellow sky. The children are of various ethnicities and are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The title "Electricity and Children" is overlaid in large, bold, black text across the middle of the illustration.

Electricity and Children

- Do not allow children to play with or chew on electrical cords
- Don't allow children to put items into electrical outlets

A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The word "Visitors" is written in large, bold, black letters across the center of the illustration.

Visitors

- Parents/Guardians submit an approved Visitor List for Pedi patients
- The unit is a locked unit. Do not allow people that you do not know onto the unit.
- People on the Visitor List may visit the unit.
- Ask visitors to sign in and out at the Front Desk.

A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The text "Dr. Amber" is overlaid in the center of the illustration.

Dr. Amber

- If an unauthorized person were to abduct a child from the Pediatric Unit:
 - Notify charge nurse or unit manager STAT!
 - Call 299, Dr. Amber
 - Follow hospital policy for procedure
 - Search unit for missing child

An illustration of a diverse group of children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing colorful clothing and are smiling. The background is a light yellow sky and green grass.

More HRO Safety Principles

- Mentor each other; cross-check each other and coach teammates.
 - Speak up for safety “I have a concern”
- Questioning attitude if you are unsure:
 - Validate and verify
 - Stop the line – “I need clarity”

A colorful illustration of ten diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, holding hands in a circle on a green field. The children are wearing bright, colorful clothing. The word "Congratulations!" is written in large, bold, black letters across the center of the illustration.

Congratulations!

- You have completed this module
- We look forward to meeting you on the Pediatric Unit!