Concurrence:

Subject: Cast / Splint Applications, Assisting With

Purpose:

A. To immobilize and hold bone fragments in reduction.
B. To apply uniform compression of soft tissues.
C. To permit early weight-bearing activities.

May be performed by: RN, LPN

Equipment:

Verify size and amount with physician

1. Plastic covered pillows – if required

A. Cast:
   1. Sheet wadding
   2. Plaster or fiberglass rolls
   3. Bucket with warm water
   4. Rubber walking heels - if required obtain from E.D.

B. Splint
   1. Plaster or fiberglass splint
   2. Ace wraps
   3. Bucket with warm water for plaster; tap water for fiberglass

Procedure:

A. Prepare patient
   1. Instruct
   2. Screen
   3. Assist to position indicated by physician.
   4. Expose area for cast application (avoid unnecessary exposure).
   5. Place towel or sheet under area to be immobilized if possible.

B. Prepare equipment - take to bedside

C. Method
   1. Hold extremity as indicated by physician. (Two team members may be required)
   2. Hand sheet wadding to physician as needed
3. Soak plaster rolls, plaster splint or fiberglass rolls until bubbles cease, then gently wring before handing to physician
4. Or moisten fiberglass splint under tap water, hand to physician, and assist in applying ace wraps
5. Assist patient to allowed position (Physician will position pillows)
6. Leave cast or splint exposed to air
7. Check exposed extremity for color, temperature, and swelling every hour for first 24 hours, then every 3-4 hours for next 24 hours unless otherwise ordered
8. Discard cast water in sink in cast room
9. Return unused supplies to Central Processing or E.D. and fill out requisition stating amount used

Documentation:

Chart on Appropriate nursing form for unit/MS4 nursing flowsheet/downtime
Form # 6630-032
1. Procedure and by whom
2. Time
3. Pertinent observations