### PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the instruction of basic home safety.

### POLICY

Patients will receive information regarding basic home safety.

### PROCEDURE

1. Upon admission, the patient’s home will be assessed.
2. Written and/or verbal information appropriate to the patient’s environment will be used as a basis for patient instruction.
3. The information that will be reviewed with every patient will include:
   1. Fire safety – Smoking, smoke detectors, electric blankets, heating pads, oxygen therapy precautions, space heaters, cooking safety and flammable liquids.
   2. Environmental and mobility safety – Fall prevention techniques, wheelchair safety, walker safety, exits/passageways, use of handrails, loose carpets, stairway safety, adequate lighting and use of extension cords.
   3. Bathroom safety – Nonskid mats, slippery surface and the use of grab bars.
4. During subsequent home visits, clinicians will continually assess the patient and family/caregiver compliance to home safety and re-instruct when safety issues surface.
5. Documentation of patient and family/caregiver instruction will be made in the clinical record.