**POLICY**

Ohio Living home health and hospice promotes the health and wellbeing of employees and patients through education, current application of infection control practices and implementation of appropriate safety measures.

**PROCEDURE**

1. An assessment will be done of the need for biomedical waste education related to the identification, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes. This includes, but not limited to:
	1. The potential need for and use of puncture-resistant needle containers
	2. The potential need for and use of bags for soiled dressing/linens
	3. The potential need for and use of gloves and protective clothing
	4. The assessment will include the appropriate actions for both the clinician as well as the patient and family/caregiver while receiving services.
	5. Each patient who has the potential for handling and disposing of hazardous materials will receive information on bloodborne pathogens standards, as well as the home safety information that addresses hazardous waste as appropriate.
2. Environmental cleaning supplies will be handled and stored according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.
3. Ohio Living staff will report malfunctioning equipment to the medical equipment supplier if leased. If patient/caregiver owns the malfunctioning equipment, the staff will render the equipment unusable and assist the patient/caregiver to obtain proper functioning replacement equipment.
4. During the initial home visit, the admitting clinician/technician will conduct a home safety check, which includes an evaluation of utility safety. The evaluation should include, but will not be limited to:
	1. Placement of electrical cords
	2. Condition of electrical cords/outlets
	3. Use of extension cords
	4. Based on the assessment, prevention tips and suggestions will be made to reduce the risk of problems and potential hazards in the home
5. Safety precaution teaching is provided to patients/families as appropriate, including handling, access and storage of medical gases.
6. Ohio Living home health and hospice’s safety program also includes:
	1. Cleaning schedules for equipment and work surfaces
	2. Education on handling, access and storage of medical gases
	3. Identifying potential hazards and risks through analysis of, but not limited to:
		1. Verbal and written incident reports
		2. Hotline calls
		3. Alleged grievances/complaints
		4. Internal surveillance