

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Burn Injury During Removal of a Fibreglass Cast

Summary:

A child sustained second degree burns to the left forearm during a fibreglass cast removal procedure.

Keywords: (Cast removal)

Device Name (*if applicable*): N/A

Drug/Name/Fluid Name: (*if applicable*): N/A

Type of Analysis: Single event

Findings of the Review

- The child was unable to articulate what he/she was experiencing at the time of cast removal.
- A Cast Removal Guideline, based upon best practices, had not been fully implemented at the facility. This included the use of a skin protection strip and ear protection. .
- All involved were of the understanding that the annual bio-medical checks examined the functionality of the existing cast cutter blade and if needed, a dull blade would be replaced at this time. In the past, recommendations regarding the need for a replacement blade were mentioned in the annual service report. There were no additional processes established for checking the blade.

System Learning:

- Incorporate in the Cast Removal Guidelines, an assessment of the integrity of a cast saw blade prior to each use, processes for the ordering of new blades, and the regular rotation/replacement of blades.
- Educate all end users of the revised Cast Removal Guidelines based on best practices.

Date of Posting: June 2017