

Electricity Dependency In The Home

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Policy

The Canterbury DHB will follow the recommendations of the Electricity Authority's "Guideline on arrangements to assist medically dependent consumers" (MDC Guideline) in relation to those patients who are identified at point of discharge as being medically dependent on electricity.

Scope/Audience

All Canterbury DHB personnel responsible for issuing electricity dependent equipment to patients.

Definitions

Medically Dependent Consumer

A domestic consumer who is dependent on mains electricity for critical medical support, such that loss of electricity may result in loss of life or serious harm. For the avoidance of doubt, medical dependence on electricity could be for use of medical or other electrical equipment needed to support the treatment regime (e.g. a microwave to heat fluids for renal dialysis or equipment listed in Appendix 2 of the MDC status guideline)

Critical Medical Support

Support which, in the opinion of a health practitioner with an appropriate scope of practice, is required to prevent loss of life or serious harm. This is usually provided by critical electrical medical equipment (CEME).

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Critical Electrical Medical Equipment (CEME)

Any equipment supplied or prescribed by a health practitioner with an appropriate scope of practice, which requires mains electricity to provide critical medical support to a person, and includes other electrical equipment needed to support the treatment regime (e.g. a microwave to heat fluids for renal dialysis).

A non-exhaustive list of critical electrical medical equipment may include:

- Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) machine
- Nasal Continuous Positive Airways pressure machine
- Non-invasive Ventilation (NIV) machine
- Oxygen concentrator
- Automated Peritoneal Dialysis (APD) device
- Renal haemodialysis machine
- Total Parenteral Nutrition delivery system
- Ventilator
- Ventricular Assistance Device.

Roles and responsibilities

For all patients identified at point of discharge as being medically dependent on electricity in the home:

1. It is the **Canterbury DHB's responsibility** to:
 - Ensure that the patient is well enough with sufficient support to be able to communicate with their electricity retailer.
 - Provide the patient/guardian/caregiver with a “Notice of Potential Medically Dependent Consumer Status” form signifying that the patient is potentially medically dependent and that the disconnection of electricity at some future point in time may result in loss of life or serious harm.
 - Ensure that the patient understands and has signed the consent portion of the form.
 - Ensure that the patient understands the importance of completing the Notice of Potential MDC Status and giving the Notice to their electricity retailer.
 - Provide instruction on the proper use of the equipment.
 - Provide information on what action to take in the event of planned or unplanned electricity outages including advice that telephones requiring electricity will not function.
 - Provide the name and contact details of a point of contact within Canterbury DHB.

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- Ensure that a copy of the completed Part B section of the Notice of Potential Medically Dependent Consumer Status” form is filed in the patient’s clinical record.

- 2. It is the **patient/guardian/caregiver’s responsibility** to:
 - Give the completed Notice of Potential MDC Status form to their electricity retailer.
 - Notify any change in their MDC status to their electricity retailer.

- 3. It is the **Electricity Retailer’s responsibility** to:
 - To record sufficient information about their consumer’s MDC status to ensure that they are not disconnected for reasons of non-payment

Associated documents

Notice of Potential Medically Dependent Consumer (MDC) Status C130039

References

Guideline on arrangements to assist Medically Dependent Consumers Version 2.1 Electricity Authority, 1 November 2010.

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