

SUBJECT: HYDROCOLLATOR PACKS	REFERENCE #8119
DEPARTMENT: REHABILITATION SERVICES	PAGE: 1 OF: 1
APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE: REVISED:

POLICY:

_____ Hospital utilizes hydrocollator packs in the care and treatment of physical rehabilitation services.

PRECAUTIONS:

- Watch for skin lesions which may be aggravated by heat.
- Check for heat sensitivity to see if the patient can tell if he/she is being burned.
- If diathermy is being used after two (2) packs, be sure that the surface is free of perspiration and a dry towel has replaced the pack towels.

PROCEDURE:

- Assess patient's alertness and age for heat tolerance and ability to determine excessive heat.
- Assess patient for erythema or old burns which may be aggravated by heat.
- Wrap hydrocollator packs so that a minimum of six to eight (6-8) layers of towels separate the patient from the pack.
- Treatment time is 20 to 30 minutes with frequent checks to insure that the patient is not being burned.
- Discard all towels in direct patient contact.