

- ◆ Call your primary doctor when you have any problems with the medication.
- ◆ “Speak up” when you have any concerns or questions about your medication.
- ◆ Make sure you report any allergies or adverse reactions you are currently having, or have had in the past.
- ◆ Don’t take medication from home, including vitamins or herbs, while you are in the hospital.

Preventing Infections

The staff of Homestead Hospital is dedicated to performing their duties in a manner that reduces the risk of a patient developing an infection while receiving care. Preventive actions include appropriate handwashing, proper cleaning of equipment, or sterile technique. Handwashing should also be practiced by the patient, to the best of their ability, and by visitors. You and your visitors should never feel uncomfortable asking your caregiver, including physicians, if they washed their hands before having direct contact with you. In addition to sinks with soap dispensers most patient rooms have an alcohol-based hand rinse which is very effective and allows cleansing of the hands without going to the sink.

Prevention of Falls

Clear path: Always make sure the area you are walking around is well lit and free of clutter. If there is a spill, clutter or equipment in the path to the bathroom, let the nursing staff know so we can remove it.

Personal items and walking devices: If assistive devices for walking and other personal items need to be kept nearby, let us know and we will put them within reach.

Slippers: Rubber bottom-soled slippers and shoes are helpful to preventing accidental slips and falls.

Safety for the Patient with Invasive Lines and Tubes

A patient may become confused, agitated or upset because of illness, injury, unfamiliar hospital settings, effects of medication, or for other reasons. Confusion may place the patient at risk for injury or may lead to attempts to pull out intravenous (IV) lines or other tubes. For the patient’s safety and comfort, the nursing staff will:

- ◆ Collaborate with the family to make the patient more comfortable.
- ◆ Assist in frequent visits to the bathroom.
- ◆ Talk to the patient and explain what is happening.
- ◆ Cover tubes and bandages.

Patient Restraints

Restraints are devices used to prevent the patient from causing injury to self and others. Restraints are used **ONLY** when other methods have failed and when necessary for the safety of the patient, staff or others. These devices will be used only after consultation with a supervising nurse and notification of the physician.