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## POLICY INTENT NOTICE (PIN)

### SUBJECT

Temporary Wireless Nurse Call System

**PIN: 60**

**Effective: 08/07/2014**

**Revision: 10/04/2021**



### PURPOSE

Nurse call systems are required in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, and acute psychiatric hospitals according to California Building Code (CBC) Sections 1224.4.6.5, 1225.4.1.7, and 1228.4.6. Nurse call services must be maintained during replacement of a permanent nurse call system if patients are present in the nursing unit. While it is preferable to bring up a new permanent nurse call system in tandem with existing nurse call system, this may not always be convenient. A temporary wireless nurse call system may be used during demolition and installation of the permanent nurse call system in order to maintain nurse call services to the nurse unit.

This policy intent notice describes the minimum requirements for the temporary wireless nurse call system.

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### POLICY

The requirements for a temporary wireless nurse call system depend on the type of patient care area and length of time that the temporary wireless nurse call system will be in service. Patient care spaces are classified as either *General Care Spaces* or *Critical Care Spaces* as defined in Article 517.2 of the California Electrical Code (CEC):

- *General Care Spaces*: Includes areas such as patient bedrooms, examining rooms, treatment rooms, clinics, and similar areas where the patient may come into contact with electromedical devices or ordinary appliances such as a nurse call system, electric beds, examining lamps, telephones, and entertainment devices.
- *Critical Care Spaces*: Includes special care units, intensive care units, coronary care units, sub-acute units, angiography laboratories, cardiac catheterization laboratories, delivery rooms, operating rooms, portions of emergency departments, electroconvulsive therapy procedure rooms, post-operative recovery rooms and similar areas in which patients are intended to be subjected to invasive procedures and are connected to line-operated, electromedical devices.

The minimum requirements for a temporary wireless nurse call system are as follows.

- A. When used in *General Care Spaces* for up to 30 days:

1. Temporary wireless nurse call systems shall consist of a patient station at each patient bed location; a bath station at each patient toilet, bath, and shower; and a nurse master station that communicates with these devices.
  2. Patient stations and bath stations can be wireless pendants or similar devices.
  3. Two-way voice communication shall not be required for the temporary nurse call system. Stations that do not include two-way voice communication shall require resetting at the calling station.
  4. Temporary wireless nurse call devices do not need to be UL 1069 listed.
  5. Temporary wireless nurse call devices that are not battery powered shall be connected to the critical branch in hospitals and to the equipment branch in skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities.
  6. Dome lights above the corridor doors of patient bedrooms are required. Dome lights above the doors of toilet rooms, bath rooms, and shower rooms are not required.
  7. Dome lights at corridor intersections of multi-corridor nursing units are not required.
  8. Duty stations in the clean workroom, soiled workroom, medication preparation room, exam/treatment rooms and staff lounge are not required.
  9. Patient room smoke detectors, if connected by a relay base to the old nurse call system, will not be required to be connected to the temporary wireless nurse call system and will not be required to provide visual alarm in the corridor. However, the patient room smoke detector shall remain connected to the fire alarm system and be operational.
  10. An audible signal and light indicating the room from which the call originates shall be located at the nurses' stations.
- B. Any deviation of the above temporary nurse call system requirements for General Care spaces shall be approved in writing by the California Department of Public Health.
- C. When used in *General Care Spaces* for greater than 30 days, temporary wireless nurse call system shall meet all of the requirements of CEC 517.123 and CBC Table 1224.4.6.5.
- D. When used in *Critical Care Spaces* for up to 30 days, temporary wireless nurse call system shall meet all of the requirements of CEC 517.123 and CBC Table 1224.4.6.5 except as follows:

1. Two-way voice communication shall not be required for the temporary nurse call system. Stations that do not include two-way voice communication shall require resetting at the calling station.
  2. Patient room smoke detectors, if connected by a relay base to the old nurse call system, will not be required to be connected to the temporary wireless nurse call system and will not be required to provide visual alarm in the corridor. However, the patient room smoke detector shall remain connected to the fire alarm system and be operational.
- E. Any deviation of the above temporary nurse call system requirements for Critical Care spaces shall be approved in writing by the California Department of Public Health.
- F. When used in *Critical Care Spaces* for greater than 30 days, temporary wireless nurse call system shall meet all of the requirements of CEC 517.123 and CBC Table 1224.4.6.5.

**PROCEDURE**

Approved construction documents for a nurse call system replacement project shall clearly describe the method that will be used to maintain nurse call services during the replacement project installation. When a temporary nurse call system is utilized to maintain nurse call services, sequence of work shall indicate that temporary nurse call devices are installed and tested prior to decommissioning and removal of the existing permanent nurse call system and must remain operational until the new permanent nurse call system is tested and accepted by the Inspector of Record and the OSHPD Compliance Officer. The temporary and permanent nurse call installation, testing and inspection shall be delineated on the Testing, Inspection and Observation program in accordance with Part 1, Title 24, Section 7-141. Approved construction documents shall include a list of all required temporary devices and their locations. Branch circuits for temporary nurse call equipment requiring AC power shall be identified.

<u>Original signed</u>	<u>10/04/2021</u>
Chris Tokas (Acting Deputy Director)	Date