

CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 050690	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING _____ B. WING _____	(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 04/08/2011
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Santa Rosa		STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 401 Bicentennial Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2149 SONOMA COUNTY		
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	<p>WITHIN THE MEANING OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 1280.1 IN THAT IT CAUSED OR WAS LIKELY TO CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH TO THE PATIENT, WHEN MEDICAL AND NURSING STAFF FAILED TO IDENTIFY THAT A FOREIGN OBJECT (WOUND VAC SPONGE) HAD BEEN RETAINED IN A PATIENT AFTER SURGERY. THIS VIOLATION PLACED THE PATIENT AT INCREASED RISK FOR COMPLICATIONS AND DEATH FROM THE RETAINED WOUND VAC SPONGE.</p> <p>Findings:</p> <p>A facility Adverse Event Report, dated 10/28/10, submitted to The Department, indicated that Patient 1 had a hospital stay from 09/17/10 to 10/18/10, with diagnoses including necrotizing fasciitis leg wounds with gangrene.</p> <p>Patient 1's clinical record was reviewed on 04/08/11 at 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Physician's Progress Notes indicated that Patient 1 was admitted with a complaint of thigh pain and other signs of infection, on 09/17/10. Patient 1 was diagnosed with necrotizing fasciitis, a rapidly spreading infection which resulted in death of connective tissue in both legs. Surgical incision and drainage of three leg wounds was done on: 09/18/10, 09/19/10, 09/25/10, and 09/27/10. Patient 1 had open wounds on the left anterior (front) thigh, the right anterior thigh, and a larger, longer wound in the right medial (middle) thigh.</p>		<p>Immediate and Systemic Actions:</p> <p>1. The Policy and Procedure entitled "Counts: Instrument, Sponge, Needle and Sharps" was revised and approved by the Medical Executive Committee. The policy includes a count of any dressings or sponges intentionally left in the wound at the time of the procedure. The policy was revised to state: "V.A.C foam dressings and sponges are not detectable on X-ray and are not absorbable. Hence, the number of foam pieces and sponges placed in a wound must be documented in the patient record. The number of foam pieces and sponges removed at the time of the dressing change must reconcile with the number of foam pieces placed during the previous dressing change."</p> <p>Education and training on the revised P/P was provided to: *Surgeons *Anesthesiologists and CRNAs *Registered Nurses working in hospital ORs and Labor and Delivery ORs via daily staff huddle messages Accountable Party: Director of Surgical Services and Maternal Child Services</p>	<p>December 21, 2010</p> <p>November 14, 2010</p>

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	<p>Patient 1 returned to the operating room on 09/28/10. A, "Long Operative Report," dated 09/29/10, indicated that all three wounds were inspected and no sign of residual infection was found. All wounds were irrigated, and sponge dressings for Vacuum-Assisted Wound Closure Therapy (VAC) were placed in the wounds and secured with skin staples. The vacuum tubing and occlusive dressings were applied and vacuum was confirmed. The OR (Operating Room) Record documented the initial and final sponge counts were correct. The counts were verified by an OR Tech and an R.N. (Registered Nurse); however, the number of wound vac sponges (therapeutic packing) left intentionally in the wound, to facilitate the wound vac therapy, was not documented.</p> <p>Vacuum-Assisted Wound Closure Therapy provided controlled negative pressure to wounds in an effort to expedite wound closure. The use of negative pressure stretched the cells and pulled them closer together. VAC therapy is also thought to stimulate the growth of new blood vessels which assisted with new cell growth.</p> <p>Patient 1 returned to the operating room on 10/2/10, for the last incision and drainage of the leg wounds. A, "Long Operative Report," dated 10/02/10, indicated no signs of residual infection had been seen, however a pocket of fluid was found in the right medial thigh wound. The fluid was evacuated, the space irrigated, and a new vacuum sponge was placed in the area. Sponge dressings for the VAC system were placed in all the wounds and secured with adhesive dressings. The vacuum</p>		<p>2. Mosby's "Nursing Skills Checklist entitled "Negative-Pressure Wound Therapy" was reviewed with all registered nurses working on inpatient nursing units. Accountable Party: Director of Adult Services</p> <p>3. The Policy and Procedure entitled "Vacuum-Assisted Wound Therapy Closure" was revised and approved by the Medical Executive Committee. The Policy includes a sponge count upon insertion and removal during dressing changes and documentation in the "Drain Integumentary Wound VAC" flowsheet. The policy was revised to state: "V.A.C. foam dressings and sponges used with negative pressure wound therapy or vacuum assisted wound closure (VAC * Therapy) are not detectable on X-ray and are not absorbable. Hence, the number of foam pieces and sponges placed in a wound must be documented in the patient record.</p>	<p>February 28, 2011</p> <p>December 27, 2010</p>

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	<p>tubing and occlusive dressings were placed and vacuum was confirmed. The OR Record documented the initial and final sponge counts as correct. The counts were verified by an OR Tech and an R.N., however, the number of wound vac sponges (therapeutic packing) left intentionally in the wound, to facilitate the wound vac therapy, was not documented.</p> <p>By 10/07/10, Patient 1's wounds were small enough to be closed with plastic surgery; the number of wound vac sponges removed prior to closure was not documented. Patient 1 was discharged home on 10/21/10.</p> <p>Patient 1 returned to the Emergency Department on 10/23/10, with a fever and pain in her right thigh. A CT scan indicated a very large abscess cavity in the right thigh muscles. An attempt was made to drain the abscess in the Emergency Department but was unsuccessful.</p> <p>Patient 1 was taken to the operating room on 10/24/10, where needle aspiration of the right thigh revealed pus. Further surgical exploration revealed what the surgeon described as a, "wound vacuum sponge," retained in the deep soft tissue of the right thigh. The sponge was partially incorporated into the surrounding tissue and extensive dissection was needed to remove it.</p> <p>A final pathology report, dated 11/22/10, indicated the retained foreign body removed from Patient 1's right thigh was a piece of synthetic material that measured 27.0 x 7.0 x 3.7 centimeters. During an</p>		<p>The number of foam pieces and sponges removed at the time of the dressing change must reconcile with the number of foam pieces placed during the previous dressing change."</p> <p>Education and training on the revised P/P was provided to all registered nurses working on inpatient nursing units Accountable Party: Director of Adult Services</p>	February 28, 2011

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	<p>interview, and concurrent review, on 04/08/11 at noon, of the Perioperative Services' policy and procedure, titled, "Counts: Instrument, Sponge, Needles and Sharps," dated 5/07, Administrative Staff A stated that the policy had not been updated to include counting VAC sponges and foam dressings i.e., therapeutic packing.</p> <p>The hospital's failure to develop, maintain, and implement written policies and procedures, to prevent the retention of a wound vacuum sponge used during a surgical procedure, in violation of Section 70223(b) (2) of the California Code of Regulations, was a deficiency that caused, or was likely to cause, serious injury and death to the patient, and therefore constitutes an immediate jeopardy within the meaning of Health and Safety Code 1280.1.</p> <p>This facility failed to prevent the deficiency(ies) as described above that caused, or is likely to cause, serious injury or death to the patient, and therefore constitutes an immediate jeopardy within the meaning of Health and Safety Code Section 1280.1(c).</p>		<p>Monitoring: The Director of Surgical Services or her designee conducted audits for four months on all surgical patients where wound vac systems were utilized to ensure compliance with the policies and procedures.</p> <p>The results of the audits demonstrated 100% compliance with the policies.</p> <p>The results of the auditing were reported to the Medical Executive Committee.</p>	<p>July 31, 2011</p> <p>February 28, 2013</p> <p>May 22, 2013</p>

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