SAFE OVER SUMMER

Working with Electricity

Hospitals

Electricity in hospitals isn't just about equipment — it's about patient safety. Beds, pumps, lifters and monitors all rely on power. A simple unplug or damaged cord can affect life-supporting systems. Handling electrical gear here requires coordination, not assumption.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot

- Damaged cords on patient-care equipment
- Wet clinical environments and spillage during cleaning
- Plugging into wrong outlets (essential vs general power)
- Unauthorised disconnection of patient devices
- Moving powered beds or trolleys without securing leads

Discuss / Share:

Who decides when it's safe to unplug or move powered medical equipment?

Have you ever found damaged outlets in patient areas?

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Critical Controls

- Inspect and confirm test-and-tag before use or relocation
- Power down at the outlet before unplugging any device
- Confirm with clinical staff before disconnecting patient-connected equipment
- Use correct (essential/RED) outlets as per ward procedure
- Tag-out and report damaged cords or sockets immediately
- Keep cleaning fluids away from live equipment

Discuss / Share:

When you walk into the room how do you determine an electrical hazard is present? What is your first step after identifying the hazard?