Working with Electricity (Hospitals)

SAFE OVER SUMMER

Beds, pumps, lifters and monitors rely on power. A damaged cord or simple unplug can affect life-supporting systems. Electrical work in hospitals needs coordination to protect patients.

Confirm with clinical staff before disconnecting patient-connected equipment.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot



- **Damaged cords on patient-care equipment**
- **Moving powered beds or trolleys without securing leads**



- **Wet clinical environments and spillage during cleaning**



- **Plugging into wrong outlets (essential vs general power)**
- **Unauthorised disconnection of patient devices**

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Where might this happen in our work environment?

SAFE OVER SUMMER



Patient rooms: moving powered beds or trolleys without securing leads.



Clinical cleaning: wet areas or spillage near live equipment.



Ward power outlets: connecting equipment to the wrong outlet or disconnecting patient devices without authorisation.

Where else?

Where have you seen electrical hazards in your work area?

What can we check to protect?

1. **Is equipment safe to use?**
   Inspect and confirm test-and-tag before use or relocation. Tag-out and report damaged cords or sockets immediately.
2. **Can we disconnect safely?**
   Confirm with clinical staff before disconnecting patient-connected equipment. Power down at the outlet before unplugging any device.
3. **Are power and fluids controlled?**
   Use correct (essential/RED) outlets as per ward procedure. Keep cleaning fluids away from live equipment. Treat all cables as live and critical.

What is your first step when you spot an electrical hazard today?

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Your safety comes first

The SI&CS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team is here to help.

You don’t have to work through a safety concern alone.

Ask for support when:

You’re unsure

We can help you understand a hazard and discuss a safer way to work.

Something happens

We can help with hazard, incident and near-miss reporting and next steps.

You need support

We can work with you and your supervisor or manager to address health, safety and wellbeing concerns.

Do you know who is your HSW Business Partner?

Stop if the work is unsafe

Pause the task and move to a safe place. Speak up if something feels unsafe or you are unsure.

Notify your supervisor or manager

Report hazards, incidents and near misses promptly, even if no one is hurt. Explain what happened, where it is and who may be at risk.

Do not continue unsafe work

Keep the task stopped until the risk is addressed and your supervisor or manager confirms a safe way forward. Ask for help if you are unsure.