



RISK ASSESSMENT

Battery Operated Fans

Description of Risk	Describe how they might reduce risk of adverse outcomes via proposed solution
Fans if not maintained or inappropriately used or during a cleaning regime may introduce the the risk of electrical shock due to electrical components within.	O2Cool fan presents no trip risk, fire, electric shock or entanglement risk due to being operated by low power dry cell batteries.
Fans are portable and therefore are subject to Portable Appliance Testing.	O2Cool fan can be given to patient upon discharge --no maintenance is necessary
Fans due to their manufacture and intended use have moving parts which may introduce the risk of entrapment and topple	O2Cool fan is guarded and if the blades are obstructed, the fan will stall causing no harm or consequence.
Fans due to their manufacture may have an electric cable with possible introduction of a trip risk, and risk of fire, to staff, patients and visitors	O2Cool fans are battery operated. There is no cable and therefore no trip risk and no risk of electrical shock or fire.
Fans need to be cleaned and disinfected. To really clean fans for reuse, they need to be disassembled. Cleaning fans can be extremely high maintenance and costly to have housekeeping or maintenance staff do this task properly.	O2Cool fans are very inexpensive and can be used as a single patient use item and can be disposed of or sent home with the patient at discharge.
Fans due to their construction may create RFI radiation problems with nearby equipment.	O2Cool battery operated fans are certified to the FCC Regulation Part 15 Subpart B for unintentional radiation.

The O2Cool battery operated fan provides a safe, practical and cost effective solution. This coupled with supporting high patient comfort and higher patient satisfaction outcomes.

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The Joint Commission



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Fans - Patient Care Areas

Are fans allowed in patient care areas, laboratories, or other support areas in an organization?

There are no specific Joint Commission standards that prohibit the use of fans. While fans may be used for additional comfort of the patient, such as those with respiratory distress or post cardiac surgery, they may indicate to surveyors that a temperature control or ventilation problem exists, as described by EC.02.06.01. Space temperature issues can impact equipment, patient testing results, and overall patient care. This concern usually arises after adding equipment or use of the space without increasing the capability of space cooling/ventilation. The organization should perform a risk assessment, per EC.02.01.01 that includes the most appropriate persons available to the organization. Examples of assessment concerns could include: risks pertinent to the needs of the patient; ventilation and/or temperature concerns for equipment; airborne particles/contamination that may impact patient care, procedure/treatment processes or equipment operation; maintaining the cleanliness of fan blades/housing; possible tripping hazard(s) created by cords, etc. Infection control should be a key element in the assessment process. The survey process will evaluate the risk assessment for effectiveness and validate proper implementation of the resulting policy/practice. Adjustments to the implemented process are to be made as needed. [EC.02.06.01]

Was this response helpful?