### Splint Care

**Inpatient Splinting: A Clinical Reasoning Process**

https://library.nshealth.ca/OTRPTP/SplintCare

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#### Referral Receipt/Request
- Physician orders, charge nurse, OT referral request - as determined by OT as part of treatment goals.
- Screen chart for diagnosis, PMHx, nature and date of Sx.

#### Screening/Chart Review
- Diagnosis, PMHx, nature and date of Sx

#### Additional Information
- Discussion with surgeon/resident (restrictions, anastomosis, surgical considerations), discussion with nursing as appropriate, OneContent, HPF, XRay Report, OR Report.

#### Initial Assessment

#### Purpose of Splint
- Protection, correction, support, positioning, immobilize, promote healing, improve function, reduce pain, reduce swelling, assistive, decrease contractures, decrease spaticity.

#### Commercial Options
- Will a commercial option fit the needs of the splint? - Consider pros/cons (fit, cost, availability), foot-drop splint, foot straps, self-ranging.

#### Splint Design
- Remember purpose of splint, be aware of protocols, follow surgeon/referral request - but not always, USE CLINICAL REASONING, know anatomy, be aware of surgical implications, principles of splint design, use templates/cut-outs, wearing regime.

#### Equipment
- Hyrdrocultator, mesh, templates or patterns, paper towel to draw pattern (if needed), scissors, stockinette (2 or 3”), blue nitrile gloves, hook & loop Velcro, towels, 1 roll of ACE wrap, 1 pen/marker.

#### Splint Fabrication
- Review splint design (Step 9), follow splinting principles, consider patient positioning, pain medications.
- Consider is assistance is required (OTA, RA, OT colleague, nursing).
- Remember infection control (MRSA/c-diff, reverse precautions, Viroxx, air-borne vs. contact).

#### Patient/Family Education
- Wearing schedule, donning/doffing, red flags, pressure areas/skin irritation, who to contact if concerned

#### Daily Splint Checks
- Remove splint, listen to patient, feedback from team, fit/comfort, swelling, pressure areas.

#### Exercise Programming
- Consider dx, protocol, sx, stiff, and purpose of the splint.

#### Charting
- SOAP

#### Discharge Planning/Referral to Outpatients

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