



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

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JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

IN RE: Licensure Violation) Notice of Directed Plan of Correction (DPOC)
NJ Facility ID # NJ10704)
CMS # 310083)

TO: Paige Dworak
East Orange General Hospital
300 Central Avenue
East Orange, NJ 07018

As we discussed during our telephone conversation yesterday, effective immediately, the Department of Health (Department) is ordering a Directed Plan of Correction (DPOC) requiring East Orange General Hospital (the Hospital) to submit to the Department a plan to correct elevated temperature and humidity levels in the facility. This action is taken in accordance with the provisions set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:43E-2.4 in response to a record of deficiencies observed by Department staff in the Hospital.

The Health Care Facilities Planning Act (N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq.) (the Act) provides a statutory scheme designed to ensure that all health care facilities are of the highest quality. Pursuant to the Act and N.J.A.C. 8:43E-1.1 et seq., General Licensure Procedures and Standards Applicable to All Licensed Facilities, the Commissioner of Health is authorized to inspect all health care facilities and to enforce the Manual of Hospital Licensing Standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:43G-1.1 et seq.

LICENSURE VIOLATIONS:

N.J.A.C. 8:43G-5.16 (Disaster planning) requires the hospital to maintain temperature consistent with industry guidelines as follows:

- (k) The hospital shall take corrective action if the temperature of the hospital is not in compliance for a continuous period of four hours or longer with Guidelines for Design and Construction of Residential Health, Care, and Support Facilities, 2014 edition. Facility Guidelines Institute; American Society for Healthcare Engineering, which is incorporated herein by reference, as amended and supplemented, and which is available from the Facility Guidelines Institute, Inc., 350 N. Saint Paul St., Suite 100, Dallas, TX 75201. Website: www.fgiguilines.org. E-mail: info@fgiguilines.org. The hospital shall notify the Department if the corrective action is not effective.

FGI 2018 guidelines indicate that the temperatures be in range in the following areas:

Patient rooms: 70 -75 degrees Fahrenheit. Max 60% humidity.
ED: 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Max 60/65 % humidity.
ICU/CCU: 70 -75 degrees Fahrenheit. 30-60 % humidity.
OR: 68-75 degrees Fahrenheit. 20 to 60 percent humidity.

During a complaint survey of the Hospital on July 26 and 27, 2022, Department staff identified the following deficiencies:

1. Facility is not monitoring temperature and humidity in areas that contain sterile supplies.

- a. At 12:02 PM on 7/26/22, 5th floor clean utility room containing sterile items, temperature was 88 degrees Fahrenheit and 37.7% humidity.
- b. At 10:10 AM on 7/26/22, ED sterile supply room, 79 degrees Fahrenheit and 65 percent humidity
- c. 2nd floor clean utility room

2. Facility failed to ensure maintaining temperature and humidity in the ORs.

OR #1:

- 7/1/22: Temperature out of range (64 degrees Fahrenheit)
- 7/18/22: Temperature out of range (77.5 degrees Fahrenheit)
- 7/19/22: Temperature out of range (77.1 degrees Fahrenheit)
- 7/20/22: Temperature out of range (78.4 degrees Fahrenheit)
- 7/24/22: Temperature out of range (66.6 degrees Fahrenheit)
- 7/25/22: Humidity out of range (64%)
- 7/26/22: Temperature out of range (65.5 degrees Fahrenheit)

3. The facility is not monitoring temperature and humidity in the Emergency Department.

At 10:23 AM, the thermostat read 82 degrees Fahrenheit.

At 2:17 PM, the temperature reading in the ED Main hallway was between 79 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

At 2:19 PM, the temperature reading in Room 13 was 78 to 79 degrees Fahrenheit

At 2:19 PM, the temperature reading in Room 14 was 77 degrees Fahrenheit.

At 2:20 PM, the temperature reading at the Nursing Station was between 81 to 83 degrees Fahrenheit.

At 2:21 PM, the temperature reading in the holding room H1 was 82.9 degrees Fahrenheit.

At 2:21 PM, the temperature reading in the holding room H2 was 92.1 degrees Fahrenheit. Per staff, this room is not being used.

At 2:22 PM, the temperature reading in ED Bay #3 was 81 degrees Fahrenheit.

At 2:23 PM, the temperature reading in ED Bay #2 was 80.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

4. The facility is not maintaining temperatures within range throughout the facility in patient care areas.

The temperature reading on the hallway by the elevator on the second floor was 83.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature reading was in between 79 degrees Fahrenheit to 81 degrees Fahrenheit, in patient occupied rooms on the second floor.

Room 254: 81 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 257: 78 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 258: 78 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 261: 79 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 263: 79 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 269: 80 degrees Fahrenheit

The temperature reading was in between 78.1 degrees Fahrenheit to 81.3 degrees Fahrenheit, in patient occupied rooms on the fifth-floor step down 5 West.

Room 550: 81 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 558: 80.9 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 581: 80.9 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 557: 81 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 556: 78.1 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 582: 81.3 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 555: 79.2 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 583: 79 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 560: 79 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 561: 78.7 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 563: 83.7 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 564: 81 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 565: 80.5 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 566: 82.3 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 569: 81.3 degrees Fahrenheit

The temperature reading was between 76.5 degrees Fahrenheit to 78.0 degrees Fahrenheit, in patient occupied rooms on the fifth floor ICU.

Room 500: 76 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 524: 77.9 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 526: 77.5 degrees Fahrenheit

Surveyor findings of temperatures between 10:36 a.m. and noon on July 27, 2022, were as follows:

1. The temperature readings were out of range in the following areas on July 27, 2022, in patient occupied rooms on the Med Surg Unit 2 West:

Room 252: 76 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 255: 76 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 257: 77 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 260: 77 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 261: 76 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 262: 76 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 269: 78 degrees Fahrenheit

2. The temperature readings were out of range in the following areas on July 27, 2022, in patient occupied rooms on the 5th floor ICU:

Room 500 Bed 06: 76 to 77 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 500 526: 76-77 degrees Fahrenheit

3. The temperature readings were out of range in the following areas on July 27, 2022, in patient occupied rooms on the 5th floor West:

Room 550: 77 to 79 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 555: 76 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 556: 78-79 degrees Fahrenheit

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Room 557: 77-78 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 558: 77 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 562: 78 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 564: 78 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 565: 78 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 566: 77 degrees Fahrenheit

Room 569, 77-78

Room 581, 78-79

Room 582, 78-79

Room 583: 77-78

4. The temperature readings were out of range in the following areas on July 27, 2022, in patient occupied areas in the Emergency Department:

Room ED #14: 77 degrees Fahrenheit

Room ED Xray: 77 degrees Fahrenheit

ED Patient Bays 2 and 3: 80 degrees Fahrenheit

ED GYN Room: 84 degrees Fahrenheit

DIRECTED PLAN OF CORRECTION:

Based upon the surveyors' findings, the facility's preferred steps to increase frequency rounding, adjust window blinds to a closed position as needed, offer portable fans to patients as needed and transfer patients to different rooms has been inadequate to address the elevated temperature and humidity findings. The Department is, therefore, ordering the facility to submit a plan to the Department by noon on Friday, July 29, 2022, detailing the steps the facility is taking to ensure the maintenance of temperature and humidity levels consistent with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:43G-5.16(k) and the FGI Guidelines for Design and Control of Hospitals. The plan should include the actions the facility will take, the dates by which they will be taken, how the facility will monitor the temperature and humidity levels and how it will monitor the implementation of corrective measures. In addition, the Hospital should send weekly reports by noon on Friday beginning on August 5, 2022, to Health Facility Survey and Field Operations, Attention: Kimberly Hansen, Acute Care Program Manager, Kimberly.Hansen@doh.nj.gov. These weekly reports shall include timely status updates regarding the plan implementation and temperature/humidity logs evidencing the facility's monitoring of plan effectiveness.

In addition, the Hospital is directed to maintain timely communication with the Department, as may be required by Department staff. Please be advised that this DPOC shall remain in place until the facility is otherwise notified by a representative of this Department.

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your anticipated cooperation. Should you have any questions concerning this order, please contact Lisa King in the Office of Program Compliance at Lisa.King@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Jean Markey, Regulatory Officer
Office of Program Compliance
Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing

JLM:nj

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- c. Stefanie Mozgai
- Pamela Lebak
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