

Patient safety is a top priority at Ohio Valley Medical Center

All of our facilities have adopted the patient safety goals outlined by the Joint Commission, which includes specific measures in patient identification, communication, medication safety, reducing infections, and preventing falls.

This brochure is designed to educate patients and family members on the importance of patient safety and how they can play a role in identifying potential problems before they occur.

Keep your medication safety card updated

Ohio Valley Medical Center provides a medication safety card to all patients and employees. The card is designed to make you an active partner in safely managing your medications and health care.

You can store all important medical information on this card, including your current medications. This card should be kept with you at all times to be sure you are getting the best medical care possible. If you have not received a card ask your nurse or Ohio Valley Medical Center representative to provide one.



Patient Safety

Your safety is our first concern



Patient Safety

Your safety is our first concern

Our health care providers are committed to providing the best and safest care possible for you and your family. You are the most important member of your health care team. We encourage you to take an active role in your health care by asking questions and openly communicating with your care providers.

Correct Identification of Patient

Your wristband identifies your name, date of birth, and medical record number. We use it to be certain the drugs and treatment planned are meant for you.

Wear your wristband at all times. Make sure the information is correct. If it is wrong, notify your nurse.

Be sure you are called by the correct name. Correct the staff if they call you the wrong name.

Insist that the staff check your wristband before drawing your blood, or giving you medications.

Hand Hygiene

Please feel free to ask your caregiver, “Have you washed your hands before examining me?”

Our Center has identified hand hygiene as a primary focus for patient safety.

Medications

Medication reconciliation means double-checking your medications when you enter or leave a hospital or are treated at a clinic. Such double-checking is key to reducing medication harm.

Bring a list of all your medications, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. (A medication safety card is available to record this information for your convenience—see back panel for more information.) Show this list to your primary care physician and any specialist, clinics, or hospitals that you may visit. Tell your medical team about any drug allergies, problems with anesthesia, or other medication related problems.

Falls

Falls can be a major setback in your recovery process. Be aware new medications, illness, or surgery can make you dizzy. To avoid falling:

- Ask for assistance before getting up.
- Use the call light.
- Sit up slowly.
- Sit for a moment before standing.
- Don't walk in regular socks or loose shoes.
- Wear your glasses.
- Use your walker or cane, if needed.
- Take your time.

Equipment

If you have IVs, oxygen, or other equipment in use, please ask the staff for instructions or assistance when leaving your bed or chair.

Correct Type of Surgery and Correct Location

On the day of your procedure, state your name, date of birth, and site for your surgery. You may be asked these questions several times. Please be patient and understand this repeated checking of facts is a way to avoid mistakes.

On the consent form, double check that your name, procedure, and site (right or left) are written down correctly. You or a member of the health care team will mark your body where the operation will be performed. Double check to be sure the mark is correct.

Patient Safety Officers

If you have a question or concern about a safety issue, please call 937-521-3900 and ask for the Administrator.