Patient Belongings and Valuables

The staff at University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics (UWHC) and American Family Children’s Hospital (AFCH), care about our patients things. Please bring only items to the hospital that one must have because storage space in patient rooms is limited. Sometimes items are lost when patients move about in the hospital for tests, or items may be lost when placed on a tray or taken out with garbage or laundry.

Patients are in charge of all items they bring to the hospital. When patients are children (less than 18 years old) or have legal guardians, they are in charge of the patients’ things. Sometimes a key person is in charge of patient’s items. Parents, guardians, key persons, and visitors are also in charge of their own things. So, please bring only items really needed in the hospital.

The staff of UWHC and AFCH will assist with storing items that are needed.

**Belongings list**
On admission, your nurse will make a list of patient belongings in the medical record. Please tell your nurse when:
- You send your items home.
- Visitors bring more items.
- You would like your items put in a safe at the hospital.

**Clothes**
- We have hospital gowns and non-skid socks for patients to wear during their stay.
- We suggest you send your patient clothes home with family or friends.
- Please ask family or friends to bring comfortable clothes to wear when it is time to leave.

**Valuables**
- Valuables include money, credit cards, jewelry, wallets, purses, cameras, cell phones, laptop computers, and other items that are worth a lot of money.
- If you have patient valuables in the hospital, your nurse will make a list of the items and put them in an envelope.
- The envelope will be kept in the cashier’s office in a safe if the items can’t be sent home with a family member or friend.
- Your nurse will help get your valuables when you are getting ready to leave.
- The valuables you keep at the bedside (such as a purse or laptop) will be your responsibility.

**Everyday Items**
- We will give you a clear case for your everyday items like dentures, hearing aids, eyeglasses, and retainers.
- This case will have patient’s name on it and should be kept by the bed.
- Please keep dentures, hearing aids, glasses, and retainers in this case when not in use.
- Please don’t put dentures or retainers on a tray, under a pillow, on the sheets, or any place where they can’t be seen.
- Please don’t leave hearing aids on the bedside or over-bed table.
- Please don’t put eyeglasses on the bedside or over-bed table, bed, or in a robe pocket.
Wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and CPAP/BiPAP machines
- Please mark these items with patients’ name.
- If you need labels, please ask your nurse for some.

Medicines, vitamins, and supplements
- Bring a list of all the medicines, vitamins, and supplements taken by the patient.
- This list should include all herbal, over-the-counter, and prescription medicines.
- If there isn’t a list, please bring the containers for your pharmacist to see.
- The containers can go home with a family member after a pharmacist looks at them, or stored in the pharmacy until you are ready to leave.
- Medicines, vitamins, and supplements from home may not be stored by patients’ bed.

Cell Phones, chargers, iPads, iPods, laptop computers, and other electronics
- If you plan to bring any of these items, please label them.
- We are not in charge of these items if you keep them at the bedside.

- American Family Children’s Hospital patients may use the locked cabinet in the patients room to lock these items.
- If you would like, your nurse can send your patient electronic items to the cashier’s office for storage in a safe during your stay.

Lost items
- Parents of patients who are children (less than 18 years old), legal guardian or main support persons of patients, are in charge of lost items of patients. The main support people along with adult patients with good mental status, and visitors, are also in charge of their own lost items.
- UWHC doesn’t replace lost, stolen, or damaged items.
- We do try to return lost items to their owners.
- To file a lost items report, please call the Patient Relations Department at (608) 263-8009.

We hope these tips will help keep your items safe during your stay.