1. **Overview**

As part of a comprehensive Safety Management Program, the Medical Center shall take actions to maintain a safe and healthy environment through the implementation of an Environment of Care Program managed by the Environment of Care (EC) Committee. The EC Committee is an interdisciplinary committee consisting of representatives from the 7 areas of the Environment of Care including Human Resources, Risk Management, and Infection Control. The EC Committee shall assess the potential risks of injury to patients, staff and visitors and the risk of loss or damage to facilities or equipment assets and shall implement programs to minimize such risks.

The EC Committee is authorized by the Safety Committee to develop, implement and monitor a comprehensive Environment of Care program consistent with the Medical Center’s Mission and JCAHO Guidelines on the management of the Environment of Care. The Safety Officer has overall responsibility for implementation of the Environment of Care Program.

The Environment of Care Program is made up of the seven Management Plans of the JCAHO Environment of Care Standards: Safety, Security, Hazardous Materials, Life Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Medical Equipment and Utility Systems as well as elements of Infection Control, Radiation Safety, Risk Management, Occupational Health Services and other health & safety programs. The Environment of Care Committee provides oversight and management of the program and may establish subcommittees representing functional areas. EC Committee reports are submitted to the Safety Committee for reporting to the Governing Body. The Environment of Care Program shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, and meet the requirements of relevant accrediting agencies.

2. **General Information**

Meetings are conducted as frequently as required by the Chair, but not less than quarterly. The Safety Officer may also call meetings as necessary to respond to immediate safety issues.

Management Plans are developed and implemented, and safety standards are monitored for the Medical Center in the areas of:

- Safety
- Security
- Hazardous Materials and Wastes
- Fire Prevention
- Medical Equipment
- Utilities Management

The hospital conducts comprehensive, proactive risk assessments that evaluate the potential adverse impact of buildings, grounds, equipment, occupants, and internal physical systems on the safety and health of patients, staff, and other people coming to the hospital’s facilities.
The hospital uses the risks identified to select and implement procedures and controls to achieve the lowest potential for adverse impact on the safety and health of patients, staff, and other people coming to the hospital's facilities.

Reports of incidents of property damage, occupational illness and patient, personnel or visitor injury are reviewed and investigated.

Ongoing hazard surveillance is conducted, identified safety issues are corrected or minimized, and there is adequate monitoring and follow-up. Hazard surveillance and information collection methods include, but are not limited to:

- SOS Coordinators Environmental Safety & Surveillance Rounds
- Staff Questionnaires
- Administrative Environmental Rounds

Response to product safety recalls and maintenance and supervision of grounds and equipment is appropriate.

Management Plan performance indicators are chosen, monitored, and revised as necessary.

Training programs address general and department-specific safety needs.

EC management plans and safety procedures are reviewed according as required.

An evaluation of the Management Plans is conducted annually, and a report on the effectiveness of the Environment of Care Program is submitted to the Performance Improvement Committee via the Safety Committee.

A Performance Improvement Project is recommended to the Hospital Safety Committee as part of the annual evaluation of effectiveness.

3. References
The Joint Commission – Environment of Care

EC.04.01.01 : The hospital collects information to monitor conditions in the environment.
EC.04.01.03 : The hospital analyzes identified environment of care issues.
EC.04.01.05 : The hospital improves its environment of care.

Reviewed By:
Environment of Care Committee
Safety Committee