

Appendix H: Safety Policies for Lab Space Use

ADA Compliance

During any given laboratory session, students are responsible for disclosing to the instructor any physical or medical condition that might make receiving certain examinations and techniques inadvisable. In no instance will a student be penalized if a physical or medical condition prevents him or her from receiving certain examinations or treatment procedures. However, the student must comply with the ADA in terms of performing the examinations and techniques, i.e., handicapping conditions do not excuse the student from performing essential functions of occupational therapy. Reasonable accommodations may be implemented so that performance occurs (refer to the section on ADA). Students are not allowed to treat any medical problems or conditions of other students. Students should never provide treatment for medical problems without supervision from an initial certified and state licensed occupational therapist.

Evacuation Procedures

Students are to refer to the College evacuation procedures located <http://www.methodistcollege.edu/about/policies-and-guidelines/campus-safety/fire-or-bomb-threat> and be prepared to follow them at all times. Students are also required to take part in an evacuation drill each semester. All lab instructors review this policy the first day of lab courses each semester.

Specific Modality/ Supply Safety Procedures

*Superficial Thermal Agents**

- Paraffin
 - Students are not to use the paraffin bath or wax at any time without the instructor present.
- Hydrocollator
 - Students are not to apply heat packs to themselves or a peer without the instructor present.
- Cold Packs
 - Students are not to apply ice to themselves or a peer without the instructor present.

*Deep Thermal Agents**

- Ultrasound
 - Students are not to use the ultrasound equipment without the instructor present.
 - Students are not allowed to use iontophoresis or phonophoresis due to access to medication.

*Electrotherapeutic Agents**

- Electrical stimulation/ TENS

- Students are not to use any electrotherapeutic agent without the instructor present.

Sensory Equipment

- Students are not to use the sensory equipment without the instructor present.
- As a reminder of College Policies, students are not to work with a child for any reason without the instructor present.

Splinting Supplies

- Students must ensure that any hot water pan used to heat splinting material is emptied, turned off, cleaned with the appropriate cleaning supplies as indicated in the product manual, and put away after each use.
- Splinting scissors must not be used to cut paper.

Cleaning of Equipment

- All equipment should be cleaned after use according to the specific product manuals located within the lab. The instructor will review appropriate cleaning procedures when demonstrating use of lab supplies.
- All COVID-19 related cleaning procedures will be followed in the lab spaces and for all equipment in accordance with College guidelines.

*In the state of Nebraska, occupational therapists are required to have certification and licensing in the use of Physical Agent Modalities to use them ethically and legally. For this reason, use of the modality equipment is especially restrictive.

Gait Belt Use

Students are to always use a gait belt during the practice of any transfer or functional mobility task. Students should ensure that the gait belt they purchased be used on their person, and to use peers gait belts when practicing with a peer. Students are responsible for washing their gait belts appropriately. Plastic gait belts are the only type to be used on campus to decrease infection risk and should be cleaned in between each client or student partner use.

Peer Practice

Students must get the verbal consent of their peers before practicing any therapeutic skill with the peer. Students are not to practice on friends or family members on school property.

Equipment Manuals

Instruction manuals for equipment within the laboratory are included within the main lab. Students are expected to use equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions and should not work with pieces of equipment they have not been adequately trained on.