



REMINDER

Responding to Change in Status

Description of Issue and Importance

A change in status is anything different about an individual in the areas of **eating, drinking, sleeping, communication, daily routine, appearance, behavior, general manner or mood, or physical health**. Responding quickly and appropriately to a change in status could mean the difference between life and death. It has been noted that changes in status, even when seen, are not always acted upon, resulting in negative consequences for the individual.

Recommended Action and Prevention Strategy

- In potentially life-threatening situations, call for emergency help immediately. Do not second guess yourself and **do not call others first**.
- Know what is baseline (typical or usual) for the individual so you will recognize a change.
- Write down and report noted changes in status to your supervisor.
- Discuss noted changes in status with other team and family members as soon as possible.

Related Resources

“Change in Status” Fact Sheet series, “Recognizing Change in Status” Reminder, “Signs and Symptoms Indicating a Change in Status” Fact Sheet

References

When to call 911. National 911 Program. Retrieved 10/22/2015 from: <http://www.911.gov/whencall.html>

Indiana University Health. New symptoms? When to call the doctor. Retrieved 10/22/2015 from: http://iuhealth.org/blog/detail/new-symptoms-when-to-call-the-doctor/#.VYrWm_IViko

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