

# Joint Commission Just-In-Time Education

Emergency Shut Off Valves & Egress Corrective Action

October, 2021

# The Issue

# Blocked Shut-Off Valves & Egress Findings

## Per The Joint Commission:

*“The hospital makes main supply valves and area shutoff valves for piped medical gas accessible. The hospital meets all Life Safety Code means of egress requirements. The hospital inspects, tests, and maintains the following: Non-high-risk utility system components on the inventory.”*

## BMH Findings:

- ❖ An oxygen shutoff valve in Med-Surg unit was blocked by a cart
- ❖ Shutoff valves in the ED were blocked by an isolation cart
- ❖ Medical gas shut off panels blocked in the OR by several gas storage racks that contained gas cylinders
- ❖ Three paths of egress blocked in the clean linen room and soiled room in the Laundry Department
- ❖ Six electrical panels blocked with equipment & tables in the Cath Lab

**These are considered condition level findings, and will be included in our TJC  
Validation Survey**

# Other Egress Issues

Other areas that cannot be blocked under any circumstance, for any amount of time:

- ❖ Fire extinguishers
- ❖ Fire pulls
- ❖ Fire blankets
- ❖ Emergency exits
- ❖ Electrical Panels
- ❖ Fire doors

# Regulatory Readiness-Patient Care Areas

- ❖ No equipment should be stored in patient care area hallways. This includes WOWs, gurneys, wheelchairs etc. *Plugged in=stored*
- ❖ Isolation carts can be placed on one side of the hallway next to the patient room
- ❖ All charting should be completed in the patient's room, or within the nursing stations. Do not park in the hallway to complete charting

**This is a patient safety issue. All hallways should be kept clear of clutter in case of the need to move patients quickly**

# Corrective Action

# NOTICE

## No Storage

including isolation carts,  
WOWs, gurneys and  
wheelchairs etc.



## Corrective Action

- Signage to be placed as a visual reminder to staff to keep emergency shut off valves and emergency equipment unobstructed
- Increased leader rounding to ensure units are ready to receive The Joint Commission surveyors for our upcoming Validation Survey

Thank you kindly.