



The Role of the Facility Medical Laser Safety Officer

Laser Safety Program Best Practices

- The Medical Laser Safety Officer (MLSO) should attend the Laser Institute of America or similar MLSO training
 - The MLSO should become certified by the Board of Laser Safety
 - Establish ANSI, The Joint Commission, AORN and OSHA compliant laser log completion and record keeping process
 - Identify and maintain a nominal hazard zone for various laser systems
 - Identify the impact of all wavelength energies on specific tissue types related to accidental laser exposure
 - Implement appropriate laser safety education and training for personnel associated with lasers such as providers, clinicians, staff, technicians, students, etc. and ensure maintenance of training records
 - Conduct regular safety and incident meetings as appropriate for program
 - Perform annual or regular laser safety program audits as appropriate for program
 - Develop safety audit tool with safety committee to assess safety culture, policies and compliance practices, and make recommendations based on audit results
 - Set annual laser competency standards and skills assessments for laser personnel
 - Conduct root cause analysis for incidents and FDA reporting of events
 - During laser procedures, place wavelength specific warning signs and appropriate safety glasses on each O.R. or treatment room entry door
 - Use non-reflective or shielded instruments at the surgical site
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- Only perform procedures with FDA approved equipment unless the physician is an FDA investigator following an established protocol
 - Foot pedal should be placed in an area that is comfortable and accessible the surgeon and separated from other foot pedals
 - All laser systems should be self-tested and/or test fired as appropriate for a particular device prior to a patient entering the O.R.
 - Follow and use laser plume evacuation standards and equipment
 - Implement electrical and fire safety practices and training, and identify fire extinguisher locations

The laser safety officer roles, as defined and created by AORN, ANSI, OSHA and The Joint Commission, include, but are not limited to, the bullet points listed above.

Learn more at www.agilitihealth.com/surgical

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