

PATIENT PROPERTY NOTICE, WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Valley Medical Center (VMC) staff respects and promotes the rights of all patients. Patients should expect that efforts are taken to promote a safe and secure environment. VMC will make reasonable efforts to safeguard the personal property of patients, however property is the responsibility of patients and their families and VMC cannot guarantee the security of personal property. VMC will not be responsible for, nor liable for reimbursement, of lost or damaged valuables that patients choose to keep with them. To minimize potential harm to personal property including loss, misplaced, stolen or damaged items, the following practices will be observed:

VMC strongly discourages patients from bringing valuables or non-essential belongings into the hospital. VMC offers two choices for patients who wish to keep their belongings with them:

1. One choice is placing items in one of VMC’s two safes (located in the Emergency Department and Main Admitting). Items acceptable for storage are small valuables able to fit into a 5X7 inch envelope, and include items such as watches, jewelry, wallets. Access to items in the safes may be limited by hours of operation.
2. Another choice is for patients to keep belongings with them in their hospital room. Essential items such as glasses, hearing-aids and dentures may be kept at bedside for patient’s use.

- Patients are strongly encouraged to leave and/or send all nonessential belongings and valuables home, including electronics such as laptops or cell phones.
- Biohazards or severely damaged clothing are generally discarded immediately unless required for forensic evidence. (Biohazards means: clothing or other items are contaminated in the judgment of medical staff and presents a health risk.)
- Further information about VMC’s property policies and procedures will be provided as needed or requested to the patient or patient’s authorized representative.

Patient’s Personal Property Liability Agreement

I, the undersigned, have read or have been informed about the above policy. I/patient understand that I/patient am responsible for all property brought to Valley Medical Center. I/patient understand that the hospital recommends all nonessential items be left at home or be sent home with family or friends.

I/patient understand that the hospital provides two safes for storing a patient’s valuable property and that access to this area may be limited by hours of operation.

I/patient agree to hold the hospital and its employees harmless from liability for my/patient’s property if it is lost, misplaced, stolen or damaged when such property is not placed in a safe or otherwise under the direct control of the hospital. I/patient further acknowledge the potential harm to property maintained by the hospital due to circumstances beyond the hospital’s control (e.g. fire, earthquake) and hereby release the hospital from any liability in such circumstances.

Signature of Patient _____ Date _____

Signature of Patient’s Authorized Representative _____ Date _____

Signature of Witness _____ Date _____

