

Elist Discussion on Pool Safety Guidelines

10-16-12 From Colleen:

I am a PTA [Physical Therapy Assistant] who works in a hospital-owned outpatient facility. We currently use the old hospital pool for our outpatient aquatic therapy. The pool is 4 1/2 feet - 5 feet deep, the temperature is 88-90 degrees. The humidity is around 70 percent. The chlorine measures a 10 on our test strips on a regular basis. The other chemicals are also not in ideal ranges according to the test strips.

Does anyone have any resources I can present to the hospital management to help us ensure a safe environment for our patients and ourselves? The hospital maintenance is responsible for the pool and does not have anyone trained in this area. I have suggested for several years that we have someone trained to be a CPO (certified pool operator). This suggestion has not been accepted. My co-workers and I have headaches from the strong fumes in the pool. We are told by maintenance that the pool is considered a "spa" so they have different guidelines than those for a therapy pool. The pool is probably about 15 by 20 feet.

Any suggestions would be appreciated. I am trying to write a policy for the guidelines of the water, humidity, and temperatures with specific parameters to ensure safety.

10-17 From Demention:

Pool chemicals are governed by a few departments now including the Health department and perhaps Agriculture department and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration). They all have different recommendations and regulations. A place to check for departments (so you can check guidelines) is right on the labels of the chemicals used in your pool. All the above mentioned departments do defer to the labels. At least here in California's Santa Clara county, all three of these departments told us to follow directions on the labels.