



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
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April 23, 2012

Joseph Caroselli, Administrator  
Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital  
PO Box 1100  
Boise, ID 83702

Provider #133025

Dear Mr. Caroselli:

On **March 6, 2012**, a complaint survey was conducted at Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital. The complaint allegations, findings, and conclusions are as follows:

**Complaint #ID00005451**

**Allegation #1:** Lack of supervision resulted in a near drowning incident.

**Findings #1:** An unannounced complaint investigation was conducted at the facility on March 5, 2012. During the investigation, surveyors reviewed administrative documents, hospital policies and procedures, incident reports, and documentation of patient consents and clearance for use of the facility pool. Administrative staff and the Director of Physical Therapy were interviewed.

One incident report described a cardiac arrest in the pool area of the facility. The incident report identified the individual as both an outpatient and visitor. The incident documented "Patient was found floating face down in smaller pool. (Name of staff member) recovered her along with (names of additional two staff)." The documentation stated CPR was started, 911 were called, the AED (automated external defibrillator) was retrieved, and CPR was continued until EMS (emergency medical services) arrived. The patient was then taken to an acute care hospital.

The "INVESTIGATION LOG," dated 1/16/12 to 1/23/12, was reviewed and concluded the near drowning event involved an individual who was an "independent pool user."

In an interview on 3/05/12 beginning at 10:30 AM, the Director of Patient Safety described the individual who experienced the near drowning as an "independent pool user." She stated the individual had been using the therapeutic pool since 2005 and was well known to the staff. She continued to explain the individual had previously been a patient in the facility, and then continued intermittently with outpatient

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services. She said the individual did not participate in organized pool activities in the larger pool as it was too cold, and she preferred to use the warmer, smaller pool.

The Director of Patient Safety stated all pool users were required to sign a form, titled "Aquatic Rehabilitation Informed Consent Form," but the pool staff was unable to locate a copy of the form signed by the individual. The consent included criteria, one of which included a physician's clearance.

A physician prescription, dated 8/04/10, stated "(patient name) may exercise in the pool," and was signed by her physician.

The Director of Patient Safety described the criteria for an individual to become an independent pool user. She stated after patients progress through treatment, work with a physical therapist, and complete a structured pool exercise class, the patients may become an independent pool user. She explained the people must meet the structure, guidelines, and their goals must meet therapeutic needs. At that point, the person can use the pool while open, but not during patient treatment or class times. The Director of Patient Safety stated when the pool was available for independent pool users, there would always be at least one individual present in the pool area. She stated usually there would be a pool supervisor which was a physical therapy tech, as well as, a volunteer in the pool area.

During a tour of the therapeutic pool area on 2/05/12 at 12:50 PM, a sign was noted upon entry into the pool room. The sign clearly stated "NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY", and also stated "IF YOU ARE HAVING CHEST PAINS, PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE POOL."

It was determined the individual was not an outpatient of the facility, but an independent pool user at the time the near drowning incident occurred. The facility demonstrated all pool users understood the pool was for therapeutic and not recreational use, and no lifeguard was on duty.

**Conclusion:** Unsubstantiated. Lack of sufficient evidence.

As none of the allegations were substantiated, no response is necessary. Thank you for the courtesies and assistance extended to us during our visit.

Sincerely,

  
SUSAN COSTA  
Health Facility Surveyor  
Non-Long Term Care

  
SYLVIA CRESWELL  
Co-Supervisor  
Non-Long Term Care

SC/srm