


Pacific Biomedical Network Meeting





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DESIGNATION: CHIEF OF
ENGINEERING AND FACILITIES
COUNTRY: AMERICAN SAMOA
TOPIC: :LBJTMC's MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT POLICY

Pacific Biomedical Network Meeting

Challenges

- **Funding:** *Medical equipment can be expensive. It is difficult to locate resources to fund the purchase and maintenance of new equipment.*
- **Access:** *Due to our remote location, replacement parts and/or new equipment takes time to arrive. This equates to longer down times on critical equipment which in turn affects the quality of care.*
- **Training:** *Again, due to our remote location, the ability to train our clinical and biomedical staff on the proper use and preventative maintenance of the equipment is limited. Some manufacturers require staff to fly to a training facility for certification.*
- **Maintenance:** *The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) conditions of participation ensures healthcare facilities are in compliance with Life Safety Codes in regards to medical equipment. Proper documentation is vital.*
- **Obsolescence:** *Medical equipment can quickly become obsolete, so it is challenging to keep up with the current trend in medical advancement.*

Opportunities & Development

- **PM Software:** *Implementation of a Computerized Maintenance Management Software (CMMS). We currently use a software program called Micromain to track work orders.*
- **Employee Development:** *Identified source of funding to send biomed staff to receive manufacturer training and certification*

Recommendations

- Standardization: *Ensure all medical equipment meets the same standards for safety (NFPA 99, NEC, CMS).*
- Stakeholder engagement: *It is essential to engage with stakeholders (healthcare professionals, patients, and manufacturers) to ensure their needs and concerns are taken into account.*
- Regulation: *Ensure that all medical equipment is regulated and monitored to ensure it is safe and effective.*