

## EC HIGHLIGHTS:

# *THE SWEET SMELL OF.....*

## **A New Procedure: Fragrance Emitting Devices**



To ensure the comfort and safety of patients, visitors and workforce members, fragrances and scents in the indoor environment should be minimized. Some people are sensitive or have allergies to scents and the use of fragrances can trigger anything from irritation to severe reactions.

The Environment of Care Committee recently approved a new procedure. It applies to public spaces like bathrooms and to your personal space too. It covers fragrant sprays, diffusers, plug-ins or any other kind of delivery method.

**What if an area smells bad?** Before we look at odor eliminating or odor masking options, other solutions must first be considered. For example:

- Can the source of the odor be eliminated or mitigated? This is usually the best option.
- Is the ventilation and level of cleaning appropriate and effective, or could they be enhanced?
- What product is most appropriate? Preference is given to those that neutralize odors over those that are fragrance only.
- Are there fragrance sensitive people or populations nearby?
- Who will maintain the device and ensure the lowest possible settings are used?



Want additional information? See the new procedure at <http://ozone.ohsu.edu/healthsystem/nursing/policy/display.cfm?id=1827>

Joint Commission - Environment of Care Standards guide OHSU in this material.  
The Environment of Care Committee offers this tool to help remind employees of safety polices and best practices.

**Please post or share this information with staff.**

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