
Admission standards – How to make it work

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Organization

The Royal Lifesaving Society has been the lead in the creation of this practice.

Background

After much research into drowning and several coroners investigations and legal case reviews the Society created this standard practice.

Aims

To create a standard policy and doable administrative system that would enhance the safety of those high risk age groups at aquatic supervised facilities. Target groups of this policy were 6–9 year old non swimmers.

Work is underway to establish this as a national standard.

Methods

The policy is adopted by facility owners and imposed on any bathers seeking admission. The policy has been implemented over the years but lately growing support from government has helped to push this policy into place in most facilities in Ontario.

Results

Reduced reported incidents in supervised facilities. Policy still needs to be adopted by government as a part of Regulation.

Discussion

This policy will continue to ensure those bathers who are high risk are directly supervised by guardians and this will help to reduce the incidents involving these young bathers. The challenge has been to create a doable administrative system that supports this policy.

Conclusion

Three level approach is the key: education at home, enforcement of policy at entrance to facility and lifeguard visual identification of those at risk through wrist banding.

Session Description

For many years the society has investigated drowning and water related incidents in lifeguarded settings. In 1996 the society published the admission standard that addressed the circumstances of many of these drowning with the hope that owner/operators and government would adopt this standard. Recently this standard was promoted by the regulatory agency in Canada as a standard seen to enhance safety and reduce the likelihood of drownings.

This presentation will review the society's and Coroner's Office recommended public pool admission policy, the background into the development of this policy and, most importantly, how owner/operators have made this work in their communities. Examples of signage, scripts and swim test standards will be included.

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