

Patent and Copyright Protection

October 1, 2002

Policy Statement

Creativity and inventiveness are encouraged at all levels for the development of more efficient techniques of providing patient care, education and research.

GUIDANCE:

1. All works and developments as may be protected by the Laws of Copyright and Patent should be reported immediately to the Department Director and/or Vice President administratively responsible for the area in which the work was accomplished.
2. Ownership of all patents and copyrights will be the Hospital's if developed while an employee was working for the Hospital or if Hospital materials, equipment or personnel were used. Patentable discoveries or copyrightable materials which are the original work of employees, produced on their own time, away from the Hospital and in which no Hospital materials, personnel or equipment were used shall be the property of the employee.
3. In view of the cost of filing application for a patent or copyright, the Hospital may, upon application by the employee, release all rights to him. A request for patent or copyright should be made in writing, setting forth specific details of the work, how it is used, circumstances under which it was developed, who contributed to its development and a statement of intent to apply for a patent or copy-right in the employee's name.

PROCEDURE:

RESPONSIBILITY

ACTION

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Employee | 1. Reports any invention or original works for which he/she is responsible to his/her supervisor, Department Director or Vice President. |
| Supervisor, Vice President | 2. If any invention or original work fulfill the criteria of Rule 2 of this policy, notifies the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. |

RESPONSIBILITY

ACTION

Executive Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer

3. Determines whether the invention or original work warrants an application for protection under the Patent and Copyright Laws. In cases where it is believed warranted, an application will be made by the appropriate legal counsel.

APPROVED: _____

James E. Lathren
Executive Vice President
and Chief Operating Officer
Palmetto Health Richland

DATE: _____

For more information about this policy, contact
Administration @ (803)434-2819