

suggests they be made at four-month intervals in the future.

The controller's study also singles out for criticism the handling of patient's financial records.

"While required patient records such as the nursing care plan and the motivation form were not being maintained currently, there was a set of index cards in the office showing the up-to-date cash balance for each patient," the report states.

"It has been our experience that this type of financial information should not be available to ward personnel responsible for custody of the patients," the auditors continue, suggesting that unnecessary purchases might be made on behalf of the patient by the personnel.

The administration defended the practice, noting that when clothing and other necessities are to be purchased, the staff "must know that these items can be purchased from the patient's funds rather than from state funds."

The state audit scores inadequate safety precautions as well, particularly the housing of three blind patients on the second floor of the building.

"On July 20, 1972, one of the blind patients was injured after falling from a second story window which was opened and unscreened for washing," the study says. The patients were transferred to the first floor.

Also mentioned as a safety hazard are 34 broken windows throughout the building.

Among the other facilities the auditors found broken or missing were five toilet bowls, six toilet seats, four toilet flush buttons, seven sink push buttons, two water fountains, one shower control, one shower drain, one bed and two mirrors.

Inadequate laundry facilities are also cited on occasion, leaving the patients undressed for lack of clean clothes.

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