

GUIDELINES FOR PATIENT OBSERVERS

CONSTANT OBSERVATION

Patient Behavior: Suicidal, Potentially Harmful to self/others.

Orders: MD order reviewed/revised every 24 hours.

Distance: Must be in constant visual contact, within reach of the patient and observing patient.

Bathroom: Accompany patient to bathroom & shower remaining in close contact, within reach of patient and observing patient.

Dangerous Objects: Inspect room daily after visiting hours at 8PM for potentially dangerous objects. Only plastic utensils and soda cans must have top removed. Collect soda can and utensils after use. Inspection includes patient clothing, pockets, purses, closets, drawers and under bed covers.

Visitors: Explain to the visitors that you must remain while they visit for the patient's safety and you must inspect anything brought to the patient. (Items such as plastic bags, matches, cigarettes, utensils, razors can be harmful).

Activity: Patient should remain in room at all times.

Number of Patients: One patient to staff member.

Off unit: MD order required. Transporter/other transports patient via stretcher or wheelchair & CO staff member **MUST** accompany patient. Clinical situation should determine the need for additional protective devices. Inform receiving department patient is on Constant Observation, so arrangements can be made for return patient to unit as soon as possible.

Documentation: Record your observations on the Daily Constant/Continuous Observation Patient Record in Non-Psychiatric Settings.

Special Instruction:

CONTINUOUS OBSERVATION

Patient Behavior: Confused/Disoriented, Elopement risk.

Orders: MD order reviewed/revised every 24 hours.

Distance: Must maintain continuous visual contact with the patient.

Bathroom: Accompany patient to bathroom & shower, remaining in visual contact at all times.

Dangerous Objects: Inspect room daily after visiting hours at 8PM for potentially dangerous objects. Only plastic utensils and soda cans must have top removed. Collect soda can and utensils after use. Inspection includes patient clothing, pockets, purses, closets, drawers and under bed covers.

Visitors: Explain to the visitors that you must remain while they visit for the patient's safety and you must inspect anything brought to the patient. (Items such as plastic bags, matches, cigarettes, utensils, razors can be harmful).

Activity: Patient may ambulate on unit with staff if not elopement risk & if directed by nurse.

Number of Patients: Two patients to staff member.

Off Unit: Transporter transports patient via stretcher or wheelchair & staff member **MUST** accompany patient. Clinical situation should determine the need for additional protective devices. Inform receiving department patient is on Continuous Observation, so arrangements can be made for return of patient to unit as soon as possible.

Documentation: Record your observations on the Daily Constant/Continuous Observation Patient Record in Non-Psychiatric Settings.

Special Instruction: