

War Memorial Hospital

TYPE: DEPARTMENTAL – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

POLICY: PATIENT FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

REPLACES: 11/08, 2/14, 12/16

PURPOSE: To provide guidance to the Behavioral Health Center regarding the patient freedom of movement and what may warrant a limitation.

PROCEDURE:

- A. It is the policy of the War Memorial Hospital Behavioral Health Center to offer mental health services in the least restrictive environment that is appropriate for the patient. It is ensured that the freedom of movement of a patient is not restricted beyond that which is mandated and documented by a court of law or the planning team to prevent injury to self, others, or substantial property damage. [MHC 330.1708(3)]
- B. A patient shall have the right to, and the center shall ensure, the least restrictive treatment environment necessary to achieve the purpose of treatment and rehabilitation while at the Behavioral Health Center with safeguards for safety of persons and to prevent substantial property damage, except that security precautions appropriate to the condition and circumstances of an individual admitted by order of a criminal court or transferred as a sentence serving convict from a penal institution may be taken. [MHC 330.1744(1)]
- C. A patient may present risk such that security precautions appropriate to the condition and circumstances of that patient may be required.
- D. An example of a circumstance in which additional security precaution and restriction would be necessary may be when a patient is admitted under involuntary commitment and/or is involved in a jail diversion community mental health program.
- E. A patient shall have access to areas suited for recreational or vocational activities or for social interaction.
- F. If limitations are imposed, there shall be adequate justification for their application. The person centered plan shall identify any restrictions or limitations of the patient's rights and shall include documentation describing attempts to avoid such restriction's as well as what action will be taken as part of the plan to ameliorate or eliminate the need for restrictions in the future.
- G. Any limitation shall be reviewed, documented in the person-centered treatment plan, shall be time limited, and will be removed when the circumstance that justified its adoption ceases to exist. [MHC 330.1744(2-3)]
- H. Except for limitations imposed as stipulated in "Section D." of this procedure, the patient, his or her legally authorized representative, may appeal any limitation on the patient's

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freedom of movement. This shall be done by notifying the center's program director, center's registered nurse or social worker verbally or in writing. The program director shall review the appeal and respond in writing to the appellant and recipient if different than the appellant in writing within five (5) business days of receipt of the appeal.

Cross reference and legal authority:

Act 258 of the Public Acts of 1974 as amended, - Mental Health Code section(s) 330.1744, 330.1708

WRITTEN BY: Deanna Murray, Program Director

Date: May 19, 2011

APPROVED BY: Dr. Hermann Von Greiff, Medical Director

Date: May 19, 2011

REVIEWED BY: Janet Farrish-Gravelle, LMSW, Program Director/Jessica Jannetta, RN-BC,
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Date: February 4, 2014

REVIEWED BY: Corinna Haller, Director of Nursing

Date: February 7, 2016

REVIEWED BY: Corinna Haller, Director of Nursing

Date: December 15, 2016

REVIEWED/UPDATED BY: Allison NM Campbell, Recipient Rights Officer

Date: January 23rd, 2017

REVIEWED BY: Corinna Haller, Director of Nursing

Date: January 31, 2017

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APPROVED BY: Recipient Rights Advisory Committee

Date: April 28, 2017