

PROCEDURE FOR: Search: Alcohol, Unknown Substance and Medications - Room and/or Unit

- POLICY:**
1. Alcohol and illegal drugs are not permitted.
 2. A search will be initiated when there is suspicion of alcohol or illegal substances on the unit.
 3. Patients are to be present during any search. In the event a patient refuses to be present during a room search, this is to be documented in the progress note and witnessed.
 4. Room searches must be undertaken by a minimum of 2 staff members per patient room.
 5. A physician's order is necessary to perform diagnostic tests such as alcometer readings and serum/urine toxicology screens.

PROCEDURE:

ACTION

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. In the event that a patient is suspected of/found to be in possession of alcohol, unknown substances or medications of any sort, nursing staff will immediately notify the resident and attending physician, and take appropriate action.
 - a. Appropriate nursing action may include conducting a body search or a room search. These actions may be taken as deemed necessary in the judgment of the RN.
 - a. The patient's roommate is to be notified that the room is being searched and encouraged to be present while the search is being conducted.
2. In the event an unknown substance is found, the RN will notify the Health Center Police, who will take possession of the substance. A Risk Identification Report will be filed.
3. The treatment team will evaluate the patient on an individual basis; discharge or transfer may be indicated.
4. Write a progress note to document the search was conducted and that the patient understood the rationale.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1974

REVISION DATES: 1977, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1988, 12/90, 12/97, 6/00, 10/03, 6/06, 12/08