

**PROTOCOL FOR: Sharps and Potentially Dangerous Items: Patient Restrictions**

- POLICY:**
1. During the admission process, all patient belongings and clothing will be searched for potentially dangerous items.
  2. Patients will have individual storage boxes in the locked safety cabinet.
  3. All potentially dangerous personal items, such as: aerosol sprays, hair dryers, curling irons, glass items, scissors, nail clippers, nail files, walkmans, craft sharps, personal keys, any item with wires, cords, lighting materials, electric shavers, razors, compact discs, nail polish, make-up, shoelaces, or any other article deemed by staff to be potentially dangerous, will be stored in the locked safety cabinet.
  4. Patients will have access to items during posted hours and will be supervised during the use of all sharps/and or potentially dangerous items. Only staff may unlock and remove requested items from the safety cabinet.
  5. All patients are placed on a sharps restriction. The above listed items will not be permitted at any time unless the patient can be visually supervised and monitored by a Mental Health Worker, Certified Nursing Assistant or Registered Nurse when using any type of sharp or potentially dangerous item, which includes, but is not limited to, any of the above listed items.
  6. Staff will be responsible for visually supervising and monitoring all patients when using any potentially dangerous items, which include, but are not limited to any of the above listed items (see #5), during designated times (10:00am, 7:30pm, and 10:30pm).
  7. The designated times for supervision and monitoring of any sharp-related items, except electric shavers (please refer to Protocol: Shaving of Patients: Psychiatric Units) will be posted on the unit.

**EQUIPMENT:** Safety Cabinet Key  
Safety Cabinet Form

**APPROVAL:** Nursing Standards Committee

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 8/08

**REVISION DATES:** 9/08, 7/09