



**MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

**SECURITY RESTRAINTS FOR PATIENTS
ON FORENSIC COMMITMENTS**

Effective Date: July 3, 2014

Policy #: FP-03

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- I. PURPOSE:** To provide for safety and security when escorting patients who present a serious risk to the public and who are committed to Montana State Hospital (MSH) through criminal proceedings (forensic commitments).
- II. POLICY:** Patients on forensic commitments who are on D Unit of MSH will be assessed and evaluated by the treating psychiatrist no less than monthly to evaluate the need for application of security restraints when escorted to off unit appointments or activities. The use of security restraints as provided for in this document is considered medically necessary because of the need to secure the individual, retain custody of the individual, and protect the public from individuals who are admitted to MSH through criminal court proceedings for evaluation or treatment of mental illness. The Hospital has a responsibility to prevent the unauthorized leave of these individuals. This policy applies only to patients on D Unit of MSH. This policy does not apply to patients on forensic commitments who may be placed on other units of the Hospital.
- III. DEFINITIONS:**
- A. Forensic Commitments – Those occurring under Title 46, Section 14 of the Montana Code and refer to person on Court Orders for Evaluation (COE); Pre-Sentence Evaluation (PSE); Unfit to Proceed (UTP); Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Illness (NGMI); Guilty but Mentally Ill (GBMI); or revocation of a conditional release under this section of law. The term also refers to persons transferred from Montana Department of Corrections facilities who may be on civil commitments.
- B. Forensic Patients – Patients at MSH on a forensic commitment.
- C. Forensic Unit – D Wing of the Main Hospital Building. This policy does not apply to persons on forensic commitments who are placed on other hospital units.
- D. Security Restraint – A soft (leather, fabric weave, Velcro or locking type) but reliable restraint used to restrict an individual's movement as applied under this policy.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP) - The treating LIP will evaluate each patient on D ward at least monthly regarding the need to use security restraints when the patient is escorted off of the unit for appointments or activities. .
- B. Registered Nurse – To document the use of restraint and condition of the patient upon application of the restraint and again at the time the restraint is removed upon return to the unit.
- C. Psychiatric Technicians – To apply security restraints and to follow procedures intended to protect the patient and the public.
- D. Security Officers – To monitor safety and security on the unit as needed or requested, encourage compliance with safety policies, and respond to patients who may demonstrate unsafe behaviors or violation of security policies.
- E. Inter-Perimeter Security Team – A Department of Corrections specialized intervention team that may be called on to assist with the management of unsafe behaviors or security violations.

V. PROCEDURE:

- A. Each patient residing on the Forensic Unit (D Unit) of MSH will be evaluated each month to assess the level of security needed when the patient is escorted outside of the unit for medical appointments or other necessary activities. The evaluation will consider:
 - a. The patient’s criminal charges
 - b. The patients legal status (e.g., pre-adjudication or post-adjudication)
 - c. Risk to the others including victims and the public at large
 - d. Mental status
 - e. Involvement in treatment
 - f. Cooperation with treatment, staff, peers, and unit rules
 - g. Physical condition
 - h. Other factors that may be indicators of dangerousness or elopement risk
- B. Summary findings from the evaluation will be entered in the progress notes.
- C. A LIP’s order will be entered specifying the need to use security restraints when escorting the patient outside of D Unit. The order may also specify the minimum number of staff to accompany the patient when outside of the unit. The order may be entered monthly and updated as needed throughout the month.
- D. Ambulatory waist-wrist restraints will be normally used unless otherwise specified. The order may also specify use of ankle restraints.

