

 <p><b>Connecticut Valley Hospital Nursing Policy and Procedure</b></p>	<p><b>SECTION G: PATIENT SAFETY</b></p> <p><b>CHAPTER 24: SAFETY/SECURITY &amp; PROCEDURES</b></p> <p><b>POLICY AND PROCEDURE: 24.10 SEARCHING PATIENT BELONGINGS USING NEEDLE STICK GLOVES</b></p>
<p>Authorization: Nursing Executive Committee</p>	<p>Revised Date: July 1, 2018 Scope: Connecticut Valley Hospital</p>

**POLICY:** Client belongings are searched for contraband upon admission, transfer and returning to the unit from off campus appointments. The nursing staff will utilize needle stick resistant gloves during searches.

Definition: **Contraband**

Contraband means any property, the possession of which is prohibited by any provision of the general statutes, which includes (but is not limited to) alcohol, weapons, needles, explosives, mace, illicit substances or other unauthorized/unidentified substances.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. **GPD:** All personal clothing and valuables will be searched on admission, upon transfer and after off-campus appointments. All patient belongings are searched by two staff members.
2. **ASD:** All chosen personal clothing and valuables will be searched upon admission. **Items not chosen will be stored as unchecked luggage.**
3. Staff will use needle stick resistant gloves first, then again with regular exam gloves by assigned nursing staff, including those items on-person. ***Please refer to Procedure 1.11 Patient Searches.*** Check outside and inside pockets, seams and cuffs, watch pockets of jeans and hooded areas of coats.
4. Inspect all clothing, bags, luggage, wallets, purses, and opened cigarette packs.
5. Opened packs of tobacco products are disposed of. Unopened packs will be mailed to home address; if client is homeless, Nursing to hold unopened packs until discharge.
6. All clothing and valuables will be recorded on the Property Clothing Record CVH-23 and signed, dated and timed by staff in ASD and GPD. Items permitted for use only with staff supervision will be labeled and locked in a secure, designated area.
5. Items brought in after admission will also be searched before they are distributed to the patient and recorded on the Patient Property List (CVH-23)

6. Patients will be provided copies of inventory lists.

**Proper application and cleaning:**

Prior to use of the needle stick resistant gloves, complete the following:

- 1). Perform hand hygiene and apply exam gloves. Then apply the needle stick resistant gloves.
- 2). Upon completion of searching the patient's belongings, remove both pairs of gloves and perform hand hygiene.
- 3). 3<sup>rd</sup> shift nursing staff will launder the needle stick resistant gloves in the unit washing machine on a weekly basis on the gentle cycle.
- 4). Documentation of the cleaning of the gloves will be signed off by the nursing staff in a special log.