

CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL

Nursing Policy and Procedure Manual

SECTION G: PATIENT SAFETY

CHAPTER 24: SAFETY/SECURITY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY AND PROCEDURE 24.12: Sharps Count of Restricted Items

Standard of Practice:

The Registered Nurse ensures the safety of the patient units through the assignment of the sharps count procedure to a nursing staff member.

Standard of Care:

The patient can expect to receive appropriate care and treatment in a safe and secure environment, free of items which are identified as having restricted use and/or those that may compromise the security of the environment.

Policy:

It is the policy of the Connecticut Valley Hospital that patients shall not possess sharp implements on their person or in their belongings in order to assure safety and security of the hospital environment.

Procedure:

1. The Charge Nurse, in conjunction with the Lead Forensic Treatment Specialist (LFTS) or Mental Health Worker 2 (MHA 2), initially identifies and lists all the sharp objects or restricted items and ensures they are kept in a secure area.
2. The Registered Nurse ensures that a nursing staff member is assigned to perform the sharps count of restricted items two times on each shift, once with the off going staff member at the beginning of the shift and the second time with the oncoming staff member at the beginning of the next shift.
3. The staff member assigned to complete the count:
 - a. Immediately reports any discrepancy in the count to the Registered Nurse in charge of the unit, including the specific items involved.
 - b. Completes a second count to verify results.
4. The Registered Nurse reports any discrepancy to the Nurse Supervisor after the first count and reports the discrepancy to the Agency Police following the second count.
5. All staff on duty on the unit involved are not to leave until the Nurse Supervisor and the Agency Police have assessed the unit's safety and approved release from duty.
6. The Nursing Supervisor and the Agency Police in conjunction with the Attending Psychiatrist, determine if a patient or unit search needs to be performed.
7. The Nursing Supervisor ensures that the staff member finding the discrepancy completes an Incident Report which describes the missing or damaged item.

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8. The Nurse Supervisor ensures that the Registered Nurse completed the worksheets and an Incident Report, including a description of the item discovered missing or damaged.
9. **When giving out a sharp item to the patient for his/her use, the staff member observes the item to ensure that it is intact upon return. In the case of disposable razors, the staff member will check upon return to see that the razor blade is still in the razor.**