

WHITING FORENSIC HOSPITAL
Nursing Policy and Procedure Manual

SECTION C: PSYCHOLOGICAL ADAPTATION

CHAPTER 9: LEVELS OF OBSERVATION

POLICY & PROCEDURE 9.1: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Standard of Practice:

The registered nurse will clinically assess each patient in accordance with Hospital's Freedom of Movement (FOM) policies and procedures.

Standard of Care:

Each patient can expect to have freedom of movement and access to programs, services, and activities in the hospital, on its grounds, and in the community consistent with patients' clinically assessed level of risk and demonstrated level of responsibility.

Policy:

The Hospital will maintain a Patient Freedom of Movement (FOM) policy and procedure which comply with written directives of the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. These policies and procedures will identify the established privilege levels for the Hospital, procedures for granting and reviewing privileges, staff responsibilities and staffing levels.

Procedure:

1. Every staff member is responsible for knowing the current status of a patient's freedom of movement and the specific divisional policies for FOM before allowing a patient off the unit. Staff may, at any time, refuse to let a patient leave the unit if the patient's behavior is considered a safety risk.
2. If concerns exist about a patient's level of functioning/safety risk, the patient will be brought to the RN on the unit who will assess the patient before she/he is allowed to leave the unit.
3. Any time it is felt that privileges should be withheld, the RN will notify the attending Psychiatrist (or designee) and the Nurse Supervisor.