

WHITING FORENSIC HOSPITAL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE MANUAL

SECTION III:	STRUCTURES WITH FUNCTIONS
CHAPTER 12.c:	Rehabilitative Therapies
PROCEDURE 12.c.8:	Water Related Activities
Governing Body Approval:	April 27, 2018
REVISED:	

PURPOSE:

To provide safety guidelines for designated swimming and water related activities. (Refer to Operational Procedure 5.5 Patient & Staff Safety in the Community for patient staff ratios for all community activities).

SCOPE: All staff involved in hospital or community water activities within the hospital or in the community.

POLICY:

Patients deemed safe to do so have the ability to participate in water related activities with sufficient staff to provide a safe and supportive environment. All community water related activities require additional community lifeguard supervision to provide a safe and supportive environment.

PROCEDURE:

Swimming Activities:

A. Whiting Forensic Hospital (WFH) pool.

1. A minimum of 2 WFH staff must accompany a pool activity;
2. REQUIRES 1 WFH staff who is a certified lifeguard
3. The WFH lifeguard is not part of the patient to staff ratio.

WFH Lifeguard responsibilities.

1. Review each individual's medical concerns and relay information to all group staff.
2. Prior to entering the pool, review the pool area for any safety concerns, make known any swimming restrictions.
3. Assess each swimmer's ability and designate swimming limits.
4. Be ready in a swimsuit with a rescue tube.
5. Supervise swimming area from the deck.

B. Community Swimming activities: pools, oceans, lakes, ponds, rivers, amusement parks.

1. The community location MUST have a community certified lifeguard on duty for swimming activities to occur.
2. A minimum of 2 WFH staff must accompany these swimming activities;
3. REQUIRES 1 WFH staff who is a lifeguard.
4. The WFH lifeguard is not part of the patient to staff ratio.

C. WFH Lifeguard responsibilities.

1. Review each individual's medical concerns and relay information to all group staff.
2. Notify the community facility lifeguard of arrival and inform them of your lifeguard certification.
3. Prior to swimmers entering the water review the waterfront area for any safety concerns, make known any swimming restrictions.
4. Assess swimmers' ability and designate swimming limits.
5. Be ready in a swimsuit and assist community lifeguard as needed in any rescue.

D. Water related activities in the community:

Watercraft activities: Connecticut Sail Program, ferries, tour boats, chartered boats

1. A minimum of 2 WFH staff must accompany these activities.
2. REQUIRES 1 WFH staff who is a certified lifeguard.
3. The WFH lifeguard is part of the patient to staff ratio.
4. Staff and patients must abide by watercraft program safety rules which may include a lifejacket for each individual.

Fishing activities: fresh or salt water fishing from a pier or shoreline

1. A minimum of 2 WFH staff must accompany fishing activities.
2. REQUIRES 1 WFH staff who is a certified lifeguard.
3. The WFH lifeguard is part of the patient to staff ratio.
4. Prior to fishing the WFH lifeguard needs to survey the area for any safety concerns, make known any fishing restrictions.
5. WFH Lifeguard is ready with a rescue tube.