

OREGON STATE HOSPITAL

PORTLAND – SALEM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION 6: PATIENT CARE

POLICY: 6.050

SUBJECT: BANDAGE AND DRESSING

POINT PERSON: BRIAN LITTLE
CHIEF OF MEDICINE

APPROVED: GREGORY P. ROBERTS
SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: JANUARY 4, 2012

I. POLICY

Certain types of continuous bandaging (i.e., Curlex, Coban, Kling, etc.) may potentially be used as a ligature. Given the risk of a suicidal patient obtaining this material, Oregon State Hospital is taking steps to prevent this occurrence.

The purpose of this policy is to define the appropriate use of bandages and dressings to provide adequate medical care, but also mitigate the potential risk of bandages and dressings as ligatures.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. Any use of more than 12 continuous inches of bandaging must be accompanied by a Physician or Nurse Practitioner's order.
- B. Prior to ordering this type of bandaging, the Clinic Physician or Clinic Nurse Practitioner must consult with the treating Psychiatrist/Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. If that individual is unavailable, the ordering practitioner will consult with staff familiar with the patient to determine any potential safety issues.
- C. If continuous length bandaging is required, an order will be written to routinely (to be defined) check the placement of the bandage.
- D. In the event of an emergent need for the use of this type of bandage, there shall not be a delay in its application.
- E. In the event the patient returns from an outside healthcare facility with such bandaging, an order shall be written to routinely (to be defined) check the patient's viability, as well as the placement of the bandage.