

OREGON STATE HOSPITAL

PORTLAND – SALEM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION 8: Safety, Security, Emergency Management

POLICY: 8.039

SUBJECT: USE OF RESTRAINTS FOR
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSFERS AND
MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

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I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) that necessary medical care is provided safely, regardless of the patient's psychiatric or legal status.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to practitioners concerning the use of Secure Transport Restraints (STRs) in the event of a medical emergency or Code Blue, which necessitates the emergent transfer of a patient to a community medical facility.

The purpose of this policy is to also provide guidance to practitioners concerning the use of restraints during off-grounds and on-grounds scheduled medical appointments or procedures.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Code Blue" means any apparent serious medical emergency that requires the immediate application of skilled techniques, medications, and special equipment.
- B. "Restraints" means an object which involuntarily restricts the movement of an individual, which may include STRs; Tuff-Tie Restraints; Velcro Ambulatory Restraints.
- C. "Secure Transport Restraints (STRs)" means two metal handcuffs which are attached to a lockable waist chain. Two metal ankle cuffs connected by a metal chain may be used in conjunction with waist restraints.

- D. “Tuff-Tie Restraints” means soft non-metallic, disposable wrist and or ankle restraints.

- E. “Velcro Ambulatory Restraints” means two soft, neoprene hand cuffs which are attached to a lockable waist belt.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. Use of Secure Transport Restraints for (Code Blue or Non-Code Blue) Emergency Medical Transfers:
 - 1. The Psychiatrist/PMHNP shall write an order indicating a patient does or does not require STRs for off-grounds medical care.
 - a. The order may either be hand-written, or utilize a pre-printed order form.
 - b. The order shall be entered into MCICS by Nursing for inclusion on the monthly medication review print-out.
 - c. The order shall be renewed monthly by the Psychiatrist/PMHNP during the monthly medication review process, and updated as necessary.
 - 2. The Psychiatrist/PMHNP shall base the order on the following:
 - a. In Harbors, all patients require the use of STRs with two metal ankle cuffs connected by a metal chain.
 - b. All .370 patients require the use of STRs during emergency medical transfers.
 - c. All PSRB patients without off-grounds privileges require the use of STRs during emergency medical transfers.
 - d. All PSRB patients with off-grounds privileges do not require the use of STRs during emergency medical transfers.
 - e. Civil commitment patients shall be examined on a case-by-case basis by the Psychiatrist/Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner for the need for STRs during emergency medical transfers.
 - f. Exceptions to any of the above require approval from the Chief Medical Officer, Chief of Psychiatry, or designee.

3. This order shall be overridden if it is medically contraindicated to place STRs (i.e., significant extremity fracture[s]; cardiac arrest). In this event, alternate restraint options may be applied to mitigate risk.
 4. If medical care or a procedure requires the removal of STRs to facilitate the treatment needed, alternate restraint devices may be utilized. If alternate restraints are to be utilized, they are to be employed just prior to the procedure. These do not take the place of STRs while transporting the patient.
 - a. Authorized devices covered in the STR order include:
 - i. Ankle restraints in lieu of waist restraints
 - ii. Tuff-Tie restraints
 - iii. Velcro ambulatory restraints
 - b. It is to the discretion of the transportation staff to alternate types of restraints utilized based upon the medical care/procedure needs and requirements.
- B. Use of Secure Transport Restraints during admission to and treatment at an outside care facility.
1. The order written by the Psychiatrist/PMHNP indicating whether a patient does or does not require STRs for off-grounds medical care (as above) shall also apply to admission to and treatment at an outside care facility.
 2. Guidelines for OSH staff concerning patients being admitted to and receiving treatment at an outside care facility.
 - a. Once admitted to an outside care facility for treatment, Harbors patients, .370 patients, and PSRB patients without off-grounds privileges shall be in leg STRs at all times. Leg STRs need to be leg-to-leg, following current OSH policy.
 - b. The leg STRs can be removed if they are immediately inhibiting a medical treatment procedure. When the procedure is complete, the leg STRs shall be placed back on the patient.

- c. With concern for elopement, the patient can only go for walks in the hall he/she is currently residing on. This is to limit close direct access to the stairs and elevators.
 - d. If the leg restraints are inhibiting the patient's medically prescribed movement, then either wrist restraints with the belly chain or handcuffs shall be used to ensure staff and patient safety.
 - e. A belly chain shall not be used if a patient is in bed to avoid lying on the chain. (If necessary, refer to section III.C.2 below.)
 - f. OSH unit policies and contraband policies from the OSH unit the patient is assigned to should also be followed as close as possible without interfering with medical treatment.
- C. Use of restraints during off-grounds scheduled medical appointments or procedures:
- 1. The Psychiatrist/PPMHNP shall write an order indicating a patient does or does not require STRs for off-grounds medical care (as above).
 - 2. If the appointment or procedure requires the removal of STRs to facilitate the treatment needed, alternate restraint devices may be utilized. If alternate restraints are to be utilized, they are to be employed just prior to the procedure. These do not take the place of STRs while transporting the patient to the appointment/procedure.
 - a. Authorized devices covered in the STR order include:
 - i. Ankle restraints in lieu of waist restraints
 - ii. Tuff-Tie restraints
 - iii. Velcro ambulatory restraints
 - b. It is the discretion of the transportation staff to alternate types of restraints utilized based upon the appointment/procedure needs and requirements.

- D. Use of restraints during on-grounds scheduled medical appointments or procedures:
1. The order for off-grounds need for STRs shall also apply for visits to the Medical Clinic or Dental Clinic. An additional order does not need to be written for on-grounds appointments.
 2. All Harbors patients shall be placed in restraints before leaving the Harbors building, and shall remain in restraints through the duration of the appointment. If the on-grounds appointment requires restraints be removed, alternate restraint devices shall be utilized. The only exception to this rule may be in the physical therapy area where restraints must be removed for treatment.
 3. All other patients shall be escorted to the Medical Clinic or Dental Clinic without restraints applied unless indicated by the Psychiatrist/PMHNP. Upon arrival to the waiting room of either the Medical Clinic or Dental Clinic, the ordered restraint shall be applied.
 4. Ankle restraints are not required for any patient in the Medical Clinic or Dental Clinic unless indicated by the Psychiatrist/PMHNP.
 5. Restraints are not required in the Physical Therapy department unless indicated by the Psychiatrist/PMHNP.

IV. REFERENCES

OAR 309-112-0000, OAR 309-112-0005, OAR, 309-112-0020

Replaces Oregon State Hospital Policy and Procedure 8.039, *Use of Restraints for Emergency Medical Transfers and Emergency Medical Appointments*, dated 11/15/2012.