




Date: July 13, 2012  
To: All Clinical Staff  
From: Rupert Goetz, MD   
Subject: CMO Directive on Special Precautions

Use of special precautions staff at OSH is regulated by P&P # 6.010 (Behavioral Precautions). The goal of these precautions is to "prevent aggressive, suicidal or self-destructive behavior."

To implement such precautions, an RN assessment and a physician's (or PMHNP's) order are required. The physician's order has an automatic stop after seven days, and requires a face-to-face evaluation and progress note; an order above 1:1 requires a Supervising Psychiatrist note; and cumulative orders beyond 14 days require a CMO or designee note. IDT reviews are required within five working days of an order.

The goal of this directive is to enhance accountability for ordering and supervising behavioral precautions. We should use precautions when necessary, but we must clearly document why they are needed.

Effective immediately, I am first requiring all orders are accompanied by a Physician (or PMHPN) progress note (minimum once per seven days, concurrent with the order) that include the following:

1. Summary of how long (cumulative, including 1:1, 2:1 etc.) precautions have been in place;
2. Clinical evidence that such precautions continue to be necessary;
3. Summary of what additional work has been done since the last note to (such as IDT meetings, behavioral plans, etc.) to remedy the underlying treatment problem; and
4. Expected further duration of the precaution.

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I am second requiring that each weekly continuation be accompanied by an RN progress note that includes options considered as alternatives for, or as replacement for the precaution.

Third, the Program DNS or designee should, in their daily nursing report include the following information:

1. Impact of behavioral precautions on staffing, including need for additional staffing above base, even for limited periods; and
2. A summary of current milieu (such as other patients requiring special nursing attention).

Finally, I designate the Program Supervising Psychiatrists as my designees for the purpose of the CMO review required by Provision III.J.4.e., in the Policy above and ask to be updated on their findings weekly.

In the meantime, I direct that the Psychology Department chair a one-time workgroup meeting, to include designees of Psychiatry and Nursing who should review the Policy above and make recommendations for change consistent with the intent of this directive.

c: Greg Roberts, Superintendent