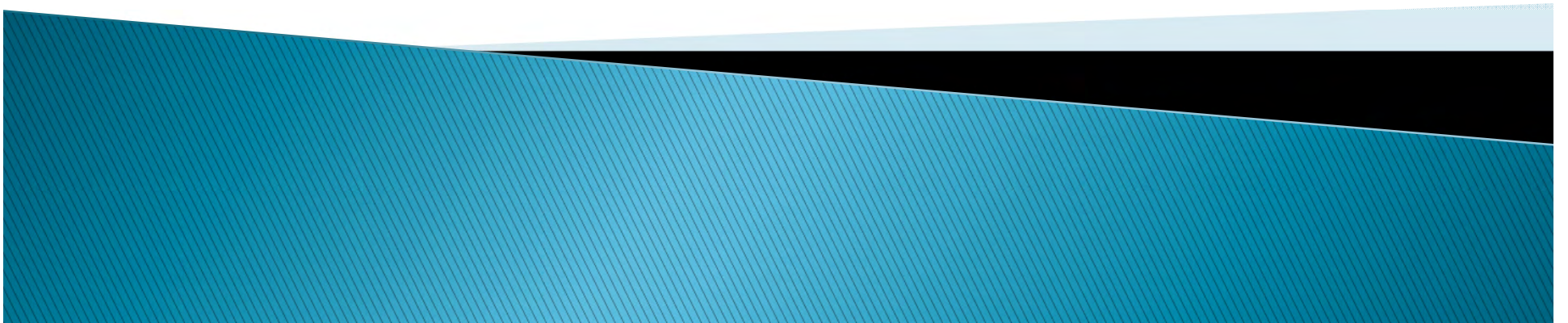


Patient Watch Education

CBL



Patient Watch

- ▶ Definition: an additional observation/surveillance of a patient beyond routine nursing observation for the safety of the patient
- ▶ Purpose: to prevent harm in patients at risk for self injury or injury to others, or who are demonstrating unpredictable/impulsive behavior
- ▶ Types of Watch:
 - One to One Observation
 - Line of Sight
 - Every 15 Minute Check
- ▶ A physician order is necessary for a patient watch. The RN will initiate the patient watch, and obtain the physician order within one hour



Patient Watch

A Patient Watch may be ordered based on specific criteria which includes but is not limited to:

One to One

▶ Suicidal Ideation:

Arm's length/Watch patient's position; face and hands must be visible

▶ Homicidal Ideation

▶ Violence/Agitation

▶ Impulsivity



Patient Watch

Line of Sight

- ▶ Frequent redirection/prompting
- ▶ Disoriented/Confused/Agitated/
Hallucinating
- ▶ Elopement Risk
- ▶ Patient's behavior puts them at risk for harm to self or others



Patient Watch

Every 15 Minute Checks

- ▶ Periods of Memory Loss
- ▶ Confusion
- ▶ Wandering
- ▶ Impaired judgment, placing the patient at risk for harm



Patient Watch

- ▶ The RN will initiate the Patient Watch, and obtain a physician's order within an one hour
- ▶ A physician's order is necessary to decrease or discontinue the Patient Watch
- ▶ The Patient Watch order must be renewed daily if continuation of watch is indicated
- ▶ Initiate and update the plan of care as appropriate



Patient Watch: One to One Observation

- ▶ One to one must be initiated immediately; do not leave patient unattended
- ▶ Initiate Patient Search and Room/Environmental Checklist
- ▶ Patient is under continuous observation by a staff member; visual contact must be maintained at all times



Patient Watch: One to One Observation

- ▶ Patient must be under continuous observation during ADLs: This includes showering/bathroom/toileting
- ▶ Observer will accompany the patient for all off unit activities such as tests or therapies



One to One Observation of the Suicidal Patient

- ▶ Immediately initiate one to one; do not leave patient unattended
- ▶ Patient Search and Room/Environmental Checklist must be completed
- ▶ Observer must be within arm's length of the patient at all times
- ▶ Patient's position must be closely observed; patient's hands and face must be visible at all times



More Information:

Room/Environmental Checklist Must Be Completed For:

- ▶ Suicidal or Violent Patients
- ▶ All One to Ones
- ▶ Other Watches if Indicated

Checklist must be completed:

- ▶ On admission when a patient is admitted on a Watch
- ▶ At time of initiation of the Watch
- ▶ When a patient on a Watch has a room change

Maintaining a safe environment is a continuous assignment; staff member assigned to the watch is continually observing for anything that may be harmful to the patient (some examples: cords, wires, charges, plastic bag, sharp items)



The Suicidal Patient

- ▶ Assessment
- ▶ Patient Watch
- ▶ Physician Notification
- ▶ Patient Search
- ▶ Room/Environmental Checklist
- ▶ Modify Care Plan
- ▶ Reassessment
- ▶ Communication



Patient Watch: Line of Sight

- ▶ Patient is in the same physical space as the observer, and in the visual field of observer at all times
- ▶ May be up to four patients
- ▶ Direct view must be kept of the patient at all times during ADLs: this includes showering/bathroom/toileting. If more than one patient is being observed on Line of Sight, an additional staff member is needed



Patient Watch: Line of Sight

When Observing More Than One Patient on Line of Sight:

- ▶ If it is necessary for a patient to leave the room, another staff member will escort the patient and maintain the Line of Sight
- ▶ Observer may not provide direct care to one of the patients; an additional staff member is needed



Patient Watch: Every 15 Minute Checks

- ▶ Checks must be initiated immediately
- ▶ Patient is observed by an assigned staff member every 15 minutes for the duration of the order, making direct visual contact
- ▶ Observations may not be completed from the doorway or from a distance



Patient Watch Documentation

- ▶ A Patient Watch Observation Sheet must be filled out for every patient watch
- ▶ Check 'Type of Observation' at top of form
- ▶ Patient's behavior must be documented every 15 minutes using the Behavioral Observation Code at the bottom of the form
- ▶ Choose the code that best describes the patient's behavior at that time



Patient Watch Documentation

- If the Watch is changed or discontinued, this must be documented on the sheet at the time of change or DC
- ▶ Observer will document initials and full name and title at the bottom of the form
- ▶ RN must review, sign and date/time the form every shift
- ▶ The Patient Watch Observation Sheet is part of the patient's permanent medical record



Safety Guidelines for Patient Watch

- ▶ Stay Alert
- ▶ Use panic alarm if available to summon assistance
- ▶ Always be stationed between the patient and the exit door of the room/area
- ▶ Patient must wear hospital gown
- ▶ Patient is never left alone: observer must be relieved for all breaks
- ▶ Do not leave patient unattended when visitors are present
- ▶ Law Enforcement Officer accompanying the patient does not replace the required staff member



Safety Guidelines for Patient Watch

- ▶ All belongings brought in by visitors must be searched for potentially harmful objects
- ▶ Outside food is prohibited
- ▶ Dietary trays must be checked to ensure paper/plastic products are used: count plastic utensils going in and out of room
- ▶ Medication is never left at the bedside
- ▶ Observer may not use any electronic device or be involved in any other activity while assigned to Watch
- ▶ Ensure door to room is open, and only leave patient when relieved by another staff member



Patient Watch

Always report the following to the RN:

- ▶ Any expression/intent of suicide
- ▶ Expression of hopelessness, saying good bye, giving away items
- ▶ Sudden changes in behavior
- ▶ Disorganized, bizarre thoughts
- ▶ Sleep/Eating patterns
- ▶ Any observed change in patient's physical condition or behavior



Patient Watch

- ▶ The RN is responsible for oversight of the Watch, Patient Search and Room/Environment Checklist
- ▶ The RN must reassess the patient minimally every 12 hours and document
- ▶ RN will notify physician of any change in patient's status
- ▶ Report must be provided by RN to Observer, and then observer will report to assigned staff member taking over Watch
- ▶ Report must include reason for Watch



Patient Watch

Remember:

- ▶ Trust your intuition! Always investigate or report anything that causes any concern
- ▶ A Patient Watch is an active assignment; always keep safety in mind and remain observant of the patient and environment at all times
- ▶ We are all responsible for maintaining a safe environment for all of our patients
 - All staff members need to be aware of and remove items that may be harmful to the patient
 - Including, but not limited to,
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Plastic bags
 - Sharp objects
 - Cords (phone chargers, phone, electrical cords, etc)

