TITLE

RESTRAINT AS A LAST RESORT - PROTECTIVE SERVICES

SCOPE
Provincial: Protective Services

APPROVAL AUTHORITY
Clinical Operations Executive Committee

SPONSOR
Senior Operating Officer, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital

OBJECTIVE

- To provide direction to Protective Services officers and guards on the use of restraint based on the principle of restraint as a last resort and patient and staff safety.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, Students, Volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).

ELEMENTS

All Protective Services officers and Protective Services guards will ensure that they are in adherence to the Alberta Health Services (AHS) Restraint as a Last Resort Policy and this Procedure.

1. Use of restraint

   1.1 Protective Services may assist with restraints at the direction of clinical staff or if clinical staff are not immediately present and there is a risk of serious bodily harm.

   Note: This does not apply to situations where Protective Services officers are acting under their Peace Officer authority or the officers or guards are otherwise relying on their powers of arrest.
1.2 Protective Services officers and guards may restrain a patient in a manner consistent with their authority (including, if applicable, authority pursuant to the Peace Officer Act) and training and in line with the following AHS principles on the use of restraints:

a) respect for persons;

b) maximum benefits and minimum harm;

c) least restrictive restraint; and

d) fairness and consistency.

1.3 When a restraint is utilized on a patient when not at the direction of clinical staff, the appropriate clinical staff must be notified of the restraint by Protective Services as soon as it is safe to do so.

2. Types of restraint

2.1 Protective Services has the following restraints available to them:

a) Environmental: any barrier or device that limits the locomotion of an individual, and thereby confines an individual to a specific geographic area or location.

b) Mechanical: any device, material, or equipment attached to or near a patient which cannot be controlled or easily removed by the patient and which prevents a patient's free body movement and/or a patient's normal access to their body.

c) Physical: the direct application of physical holding techniques to a patient that involuntarily restricts their movement.

3. Documentation

3.1 A security occurrence report shall be completed by Protective Services any time a restraint is used on any person and stored in the Protective Services database.

3.2 The security report shall include:

a) reason for restraint;

b) type of restraint used; and

c) clinical staff that requested the restraint or the clinical staff that was notified after the restraint was implemented.
4. Training and Education
   4.1 Protective Services staff shall receive information and training on the use and risks of restraints.

   a) Training shall occur during new staff induction.

Definitions

Patient means an adult or child who receives or has requested health care or services from Alberta Health Services and its health services providers or individuals authorized to act on behalf of Alberta Health Services. This term is inclusive of residents, clients and outpatients.

Protective Services Officer means Protective Services Officers with Community Peace Officer appointments pursuant to the Peace Officer Act and Alberta Health Services officers scheduled for Peace Officer training.

Protective Services Guard means all contract security guards, under contract with Alberta Health Services, Protective Services.

Least restrictive restraint means the lowest degree of restraint, used for the least amount of time, as appropriate given the patient’s mental and physical condition, necessary to inhibit movement in order to enable treatment or support control of the patient for safety.

Locomotion means the movement of an individual from place to place in a room.

Restraint means any measure used to limit the activity or control the behaviour of a patient or a portion of their body.

Restraint as a last resort means all possible alternative interventions considered and rejected with consideration of the patient’s mental and physical condition before deciding to use a restraint.

References

- Alberta Health Services Governance Documents:
  - Restraint as a Last Resort Policy (#HCS-176)
- Non-Alberta Health Services Documents:
  - Peace Officer Act

Version History

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