

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Policy

Levels of Autonomy and Supervision

Revised: X

Date:

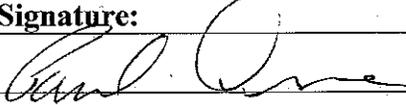
POLICY STATEMENT:

Every patient has the right to treatment in a safe environment. The hospital and the professional staff have a responsibility and a duty to protect the safety of all patients and others as part of the clinical care offered during hospitalization. Within this environment, every patient has the right to: clinical programming, receive visitors, communicate by sealed mail and by telephone, and to access natural light, fresh air and the outdoors to the extent that health or safety considerations do not make it necessary to place limitations on these rights. These rights are fundamentally important for every patient's well being and dignity, and should be available to all patients as a part of meeting therapeutic needs.

Subject to court ordered restrictions, the attending physician in consultation with the patient and his or her treatment team shall be responsible for determining patient levels of autonomy and supervision based on the clinical condition of the patient and the need of the hospital to maintain a safe environment. Levels of autonomy and supervision shall not to be used as incentives to behavior modification but shall be related solely to the patient's ability to appropriately handle differing levels of autonomy. It is a goal of recovery to increase a patient's ability to safely handle levels of autonomy in the least restrictive manner, consistent with the hospital's duty to provide a safe environment of care.

PURPOSE:

- To provide consistency and uniform practices with respect to maintaining a safe environment of care.
- To provide for determinations of levels of patient autonomy and supervision that are based on clinical need and are reflected in the patient's treatment plan.
- To provide for limitations on patient activities and access only when they are consistent with medical status (including mental status), level of medical or safety risk, and staff ability to effectively supervise the patient and maintain a safe environment of care.

Approved by:	Signature:	Date:
Paul Dupre, Commissioner, DMH		4-3-14