

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Policy and Procedure		
Medical Bed Use		
Effective: October 2022	Revised:	Due to Review: October 2024

POLICY

The Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) has a responsibility to assess environmental hazards and to implement mitigation strategies in situations when potential hazards cannot be removed. In certain cases, when necessary to balance medical and psychiatric care needs, medical beds may be utilized to enhance the care and safety of individuals receiving services at VPCH. Ligature-resistant or ligature-reduced medical beds should be utilized over traditional medical beds whenever possible to minimize environmental safety hazards.

DEFINITIONS

Ligature-Resistant: The Joint Commission defines ligature-resistant as without points where a cord, rope, bedsheet, or other fabric/material can be looped or tied to create a sustainable point of attachment that may result in self-harm or loss of life.

Ligature-Reduced: The Joint Commission defines ligature-reduced as with fewer points where a cord, rope, bedsheet, or other fabric/material can be looped or tied to create a sustainable point of attachment that may result in self-harm or loss of life.

PROCEDURE

A medical bed risk assessment will be conducted by a psychiatrist to determine when medical beds are required, to assess risk that use of a medical bed may present, and to determine the appropriate type of medical bed needed to best meet the assessed medical and psychiatric needs. This risk assessment will be documented in the medical record by the assessing psychiatrist in a *Medical Consult Note* and the assessing psychiatrist will write an order for use in the medical record.

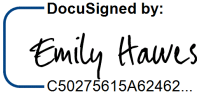
Strategies will be implemented to mitigate assessed risks associated with use of a medical bed in an acute, inpatient, psychiatric care environment. Safety provisions must also be considered for all patients who could be at risk for suicide. These corresponding risk mitigating interventions will be documented in the medical record and the Multidisciplinary Treatment Plan.

Risk Mitigating Interventions to Consider:

- Limit access to the room with the medical bed
- Level of ordered observation
- Routine room safety searches
- Limit to essential medical bed features and functionality

Nursing will conduct a medical bed risk assessment each shift which includes risks associated with use, ongoing need for the medical bed, and current clinical presentation, including suicide risk, and document this by ‘performing’ the order in order chronology.

When any clinically significant change(s) to medical presentation, psychiatric presentation, and/or suicide risk are assessed, a physician shall be notified, and the medical bed risk assessment should be repeated by a psychiatrist.

Approved by	Signature	Date
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