

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Procedure

Minor Surgical Procedures

New: X

Date: 5/5/16

Minor surgical procedures may be ordered and performed at the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) by medical consultants from Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC),

The CVMC medical consultant shall inform the VPCH attending psychiatrist whenever the medical consultant determines that a minor surgical procedure is necessary and shall be performed at VPCH.

Informed Consent

The medical consultant shall obtain the consent of the patient or guardian before performing any minor surgical procedure. Informed consent for a minor surgical procedure shall be obtained by a physician in conversation with the patient or guardian and documented in a progress note.

The informed consent process includes a description of the condition being treated and an explanation of the proposed treatment. The informed consent process also includes discussion about:

- the potential benefits, risks, and side effects of the proposed care, treatment, and services.
- the likelihood of the patient achieving his or her goals
- reasonable alternatives to the proposed care, treatment and services. The discussion should encompass the risks, benefits, and side effects related to the alternatives and the risks related to not receiving the proposed care, treatment, and services
- the right to freely consent to or refuse the treatment without coercion, retaliation or punishment.

If a guardian has been appointed for the patient, the medical consultant shall notify the guardian about changes in the patient's condition and treatment and seek informed consent. Vermont law permits a guardian to consent to a surgical procedure.

In cases where a patient or guardian refuses a recommended treatment, an alternative clinically appropriate treatment acceptable to the patient, including no treatment, shall be explored and offered where possible.

Procedures

- repair of simple lacerations
- incision and drainage of abscesses and infected cysts
- shave/punch/fusiform excisional biopsies of skin lesions
- debridement and dressing of superficial burns
- irrigation/curettage of impacted ear wax
- treatment of paronychia and ingrown nails

If the medical consultant recommends performing a procedure not listed above, on a VPCH patient care unit, the medical consultant shall inform the attending psychiatrist and describe the rationale for the procedure in a progress note.

Equipment

Medical consultants shall, at their discretion, use materials available at VPCH or, when necessary, obtain disposable items and surgical instruments from CVMC sites where they practice including medical group practices and the emergency department. Disposable items (e.g. scalpels and sutures) shall be placed in biohazard containers at VPCH; surgical instruments needing sterilization (e.g. hemostats and forceps) shall be cleansed, packaged and returned to the appropriate CVMC site by the medical consultant. Specimens obtained through biopsy or other procedures shall be managed by the medical consultant.

Process and Documentation

The medical consultant shall coordinate the scheduling of a minor surgical procedure with the Charge Nurse.

The medical consultant shall inform the Nursing Supervisor before bringing any sharp object into a patient care area.

A VPCH registered nurse shall accompany and provide support to the patient and remain present throughout a minor surgical procedure. The nurse may offer routine psychiatric nursing assistance to the physician and is not expected to participate directly in the technical procedure.

The medical consultant shall document the nature and outcome of the minor surgical procedure in a progress note.

Approved by	Signature	Date
Frank Reed, Commissioner of DMH		11/29/16