

Addressing Special Needs in Mental Health

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Major Objectives of SPH in Mental Health

- ◆ Provide easily usable equipment that minimizes risk to staff and patients
- ◆ Avoid inappropriate patient handling equipment
- ◆ Stay within the Mental Health Environment of Care Checklist



Objectives of this Presentation

- ◆ Identify the link to suicide and patient handling equipment.
- ◆ Explore equipment that minimizes suicide risks
- ◆ Discuss ongoing staff education on managing and storing equipment



According to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Veteran's Affairs:

- ◆ 1500(5%) suicides occur while patients are hospitalized for medical or psychiatric reasons.
- ◆ 62-75% are accomplished by hanging or jumping from high places.



Suicide Facts, Cont'd

- ◆ CDC information indicates that about 20% of all suicides in America occur within the Veteran population
- ◆ Rates among veteran men are about *2 times* greater than the rates for comparable men in the general population



Checklist for SPH Equipment on Mental Health Units

- ◆ Potential for life-threatening hazards-ropes or materials that can be removed
- ◆ *Ceiling lifts should be avoided
- ◆ Permanent lift installations should be avoided
- ◆ * *From Mental health Environment of Care Checklist General Criteria Question # 15- There never should be items hanging from ceilings*



SPH Equipment that Can Be Considered for Mental Health Units

- ◆ Air Assisted Lateral Transfer Devices
- ◆ Hover Jacks
- ◆ Sit to Stand Lifts
- ◆ **Floor-based** Full Body Sling Lifts



NOT ACCEPTABLE Full Body Sling Lifts Ceiling Mounted

- ✓ Ceiling Lifts should be avoided
- ✓ Permanent Lift installations should be avoided




ACCEPTABLE Sit to Stand Lifts




- Pt should have:
 - ✓ Wt bearing capacity
 - ✓ Upper body strength
 - ✓ Ability to grasp with at least one hand
 - ✓ Ability to follow simple directions



ACCEPTABLE Full Body Sling Lifts Floor-based



- ✓ Can be used with a totally dependent patient



ACCEPTABLE Lateral Transfer Devices



Air Assisted Lateral Transfer Device

- ✓ Can be used with a totally dependent patient



ACCEPTABLE Hover Jack




Storage for All SPH Equipment used on Mental Health Unit

- ◆ Locked Storage Area
- ◆ Store equipment immediately after use



Education

- ◆ Education for new staff
- ◆ Ongoing education to sustain knowledge of proper use, storage and precautions



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You Cannot Direct the Wind.
You can only adjust your sails!



Thank you!
Questions?

