

FOR MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS

# 20 Tips for a Safer Environment of Care



To create safe conditions, address patient and employee safety as well as the surrounding environment.

1. Do not use plastic covers for soap, toilet paper or paper towels in the bathroom.
2. Ensure electrical outlets are tamper-resistant.
3. No trashcans in patient rooms.
4. Ensure wiring from the televisions, DVD players, or radios is not accessible to patients.
5. Do not use zip cover mattresses or electric beds.
6. Ensure all entrances into unit are locked at all times.
7. Do not keep housekeeping carts on the unit because of chemicals, plastic bags or potential use of other items as weapons.
8. Ensure patio furniture is not located next to a fence to allow for elopement.

## EMPLOYEE SAFETY

9. Security is on-site or easily accessible.
10. Educate staff on emergency carts/AED use.
11. Conduct mock drills for medical and behavioral emergencies.
12. Ensure staffing is appropriate to observe patients safely.

## PATIENT SAFETY

13. All behavioral and medical problems are included on the care plan.
14. Actions to prevent elopement are included in policies. Staff are educated and drilled on elopement.
15. Medications are secure at all times.
16. Restraint log book is maintained and includes chemical restraint documentation.
17. Restraints are accessible in the event of a crisis.
18. Restraint room is not used as a quiet room.
19. Fall interventions are implemented on high-risk fall patients and document interventions utilized.
20. Fall risk re-evaluated daily using a fall risk screening tool for this high-risk population.



MALPRACTICE TRUST

THE PHYSICIANS TRUST

WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST