(A) Policy Statement

Milieu activities will be provided for all patients of the Kobacker Center Inpatient Unit as an essential part of the total therapeutic environment. There will be recreational events occurring off the University of Toledo Medical Center Campus.

(B) Purpose of Policy

The milieu must provide the patient with opportunities to succeed, to learn or refine new skills and behaviors, to feel good about himself/herself and others, and to increase the individual’s level of physical and emotional well being. To provide guidelines to be followed while planning and implementing off-grounds activities which are part of the therapeutic milieu for child/adolescent patients.

(C) Procedure

1. Milieu activities are planned collaboratively by the nursing/milieu staff and the responsible treatment team members.

2. Behavioral expectations will be discussed with the patient group by the nursing staff before departure.

3. Staff will be assigned to accompany patients on recreational activities by the charge nurse according to patient needs.

4. In general, staff will accompany patients on a 1:4 basis. Minimum 2 staff.

5. At least one staff accompanying patients off-ground must be currently certified in CPR.

6. If consent form is not signed by custodial parent/guardian, the patient cannot attend off-ground activities.

7. Patients on runaway or suicide precautions may not attend out of building activities.

8. Patients on close observation precautions may attend activities as clinically indicated.

9. If a patient elopes on a field trip and other patients are with the staff, the staff’s primary concern is to get the patients to a safe area while phoning or contacting the hospital for assistance. Nursing should inform the attending physician and family of the elopement.

10. Every effort should be made to apprehend the eloped patient as long as other patients are safe and
supervised.

11. The treatment team may decide to allow a patient who has been admitted less than 24 hours from the time of the planned activity to attend an off ground activity provided the patient is not on suicide or runaway precautions.

12. Decisions about the appropriateness of the activity itself (whether it shall occur), or about the appropriateness of the activity as being therapeutic for the patient (whether the patient participates in the scheduled activity), shall be made by the charge nurse after consultation with other team members such as the physician or house supervisor. The charge nurse must decide whether a registered nurse(RN) may need to attend the activity. Those instances under which a RN must attend may include, but are not limited to times when patients have medical conditions that require RN monitoring, when patients need medications and/or other unusual circumstances that require RN monitoring.

Factors which influence whether the scheduled activity will be held shall include patient status, availability of sufficient numbers of staff to supervise the activity, weather conditions, availability of appropriate transportation, and availability of sufficient staff to supervise the patients remaining on the Unit.

13. In the rare event that all patients are able to attend an off-grounds activity at the same time, and all staff are essential for the activity (i.e. medical necessity, staffing ratio), the house supervisor and the telephone operator on call needs to be notified and time of return needs to be communicated.

14. The house supervisor is available to the charge nurse at all times to assist in decision-making regarding scheduled activities. The house supervisor will request to talk to the charge nurse when any concerns/questions pertaining to the unit or unit activities arise.

15. The charge nurse or designees will report to the house supervisor any unusual incidents that took place during the outing.

16. If delayed in returning from an activity, the house supervisor will be notified if possible.

17. The patients will return to Kobacker Center inpatient unit before dark from all outdoor activities, unless special consent in advance from the nursing director is given to return later.
Approved by:

Tamara Cerrone BSN, RN
Nursing Director Inpatient Behavioral Health

Tanvir Singh, MD
Medical Director, Kobacker

Monecca Smith, MSN, RN
Director of Nursing / CNIO

Review/Revision Completed By:
Barb Lanct RN, Tamara Cerrone BSN, RN
Kobacker UBC

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