(A) Policy Statement

Some children or adolescents admitted to the Kobacker Center Inpatient Unit may require a search for contraband.

(B) Purpose of Policy

For the protection of patients and staff.

(C) Procedure

1. Body search will be used only if the patient is suspected of having contraband which includes - fire setting materials, drugs, weapons, or other items that could be dangerous to the patient or others.

2. If a patient is suspected of having any contraband upon return from a LOA or following a visit, he may be searched. Parental support will be engaged, if possible.

3. Separate the patient from the group and take off unit, preferably to the treatment room.

4. One staff must remain with the patient at all times.

5. Explain intentions to patient, encouraging him/her to volunteer for a complete search.

6. If a patient volunteers to be searched, ask that an additional staff member enter the room, hand him/her a patient gown and ask him/her to take off all clothes including underwear, shoes, socks, and hand them to you.

7. Report all findings of search to attending physician, parents, administrative coordinator and campus police.

8. If refusal for search occurs, notify the attending psychiatrist, campus police, and parents. Do not forcibly search the patient.

9. Document in the EMR the rationale for the search, the patient’s behavior, and findings of the search. If an unknown drug specimen is found, label it and notify the administrative coordinator and transport to the pharmacy lab.
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