

Name of Policy: Body piercings, subdermal/transdermal/microdermal implants, skin divers		 Effective date: April 1, 2026 Original effective date: January 2015	
Policy Number: 3364-122-47			
Approving Officer: Chief Executive Officer Chief Nursing Officer Service Chief			
Responsible Agent: Nursing Director Inpatient Psychiatry			
Scope: The University of Toledo Medical Center			
Key words: jewelry, body piercings, refusal, implant			
	New policy proposal	X	Minor/technical revision of existing policy
	Major revision of existing policy		Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy statement

All patients will be free of items that could potentially be used in impulsive, unsafe behaviors.

(B) Purpose of policy

To ensure the safety of all patients and staff by securing potentially dangerous objects.

(C) Procedure

- (1) Staff will assess each patient on admission for body piercings. Staff will note obvious piercings (ear, nose, eyebrow, tongue, lip, etc.) and will ask both patient and patient’s guardian if there are any additional piercings which are covered by clothing and not obviously visible.

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- (2) Staff will inform patient that jewelry, including body piercings of any kind, is not permitted.
- (3) Staff will request that all body piercing jewelry be removed and sent home with parent/guardian. If not able to send body piercing jewelry home, it will be secured in locked cabinet and sent home at the next available opportunity.
- (4) Staff will document in the EMR all body piercings and whether body piercing jewelry was secured in locked cabinet or sent home with parent/guardian.
- (5) If the patient refuses or is unable to remove body piercings:
 - (a) Staff will document patient's refusal in the EMR, and on the whiteboard.
 - (b) Staff will report patient's refusal to the next shift through shift-to-shift report.
 - (c) Staff will continue to request that patient remove all body piercings each shift, if awake, and will document patient's refusal or compliance with request.
 - (d) As long as patient refuses to remove body piercings, patient may be placed on ~~nursing close observation or suicide/runaway precautions~~1:1 or Line of Sight level of observation.
- (6) If the patient has a subdermal implant, transdermal implant, microdermal implant or skin diver, he/she may remain on ~~nursing close observation or suicide/runaway precautions~~1:1 or Line of Sight level of observation throughout length of stay.

<p>Approved by:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Daniel Barbee, MBA, BSN, RN, FACHE Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>	<p>Policies superseded by this policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p>Initial effective date: January 2015</p> <p>Review/Revision Date:</p> <p><i>June 2017</i></p> <p><i>June 2020</i></p> <p><i>April 1, 2023</i></p>
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<p>_____</p> <p>Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC Chief Nursing Officer</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Tanvir Singh, MD Service Chief</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date</p> <p><i>Review and Revision Completed By: Inpatient Behavioral Health Administration</i></p>	<p><i>April 1, 2026</i></p> <p>Next review date: <i>April 1, 2029</i></p>
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