(A) Policy Statement

Vital signs will be monitored on a regular schedule on all patients admitted to the Kobacker Center Inpatient Unit.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To establish uniform guidelines for monitoring patient’s vital signs.

(C) Procedure

1. Baseline assessment of vital signs will be made on admission to the Kobacker Center Inpatient Unit. This consists of blood pressure, pulse rate, oral temperature, respiration rate and body weight and height.

2. Additional vital signs will be taken upon order.

3. When psychotropic medication is to be administered on a regular basis, blood pressure and pulse rates will be taken in a sitting and standing position before administering the medication and 3-4 hours after administration, while awake. This is to be done for 5 consecutive days when the medication is started and for 3 days following dosage increases. When a stimulant is to be administered, blood pressure and pulse should be taken before administering the medication and 1-2 hours after administration. This is to be done for 3 consecutive days when the medication is started and for 3 days following dosage increases.

4. It is the responsibility of the professional nurse to assess changes in the patients’ condition or behavior which warrants increased monitoring of vital signs. These nursing actions do not necessitate a physician’s order.

5. Vital signs including temperature, pulse, respiration and blood pressure should be attempted on any patient that is in restraints or seclusion. If a patient is not cooperative at that time, documentation of patient status should be completed in the electronic medical record.
## Vital Signs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approved by:</th>
<th>Review/Revision Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/s/ Tamara Cerrone, BSN, RN, Nursing Director Child/Adolescent Inpatient Unit</td>
<td>7/84 3/2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>/s/ Rakesh Goyal, MD Medical Director, Kobacker Inpatient Unit Assistant Professor Psychiatry</td>
<td>12/1985 3/2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>/s/ Monecca Smith MSN, RN, Associate V.P. of Patient Care Services/Director of Nursing</td>
<td>10/86 5/17/2010</td>
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</table>

**Review/Revision Completed By:**

/s/ Nursing Director Child/Adolescent Inpatient Unit, Laurel Hummel BSN, RN, Kobacker UBC

**Next Review Date:** 6/2022

**Policies Superseded by This Policy:** 1-M-09