

## NURSING SERVICES GUIDELINE INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

### **Guideline: Use of Sensory Room**

**Responsibility:** All Inpatient Behavioral Health Staff and Faculty



**Purpose of Guideline:** To provide guidance for the safe use of the sensory room. The sensory room provides a safe, structured environment where patients may use sensory tools and calming strategies to manage stress, agitation, or sensory needs.

**Effective Date:**  
May 2026

**Initial Effective Date:**  
May 2026

### **Procedure**

- (A) The Sensory Room will remain locked when not in use.
- (B) The sensory room contains a variety of therapeutic items. These items should not be removed from the sensory room for use in the standard milieu. Items will be assessed for any safety risk and removed or added as needed to meet the needs of individual patients.
- (C) The room is to be used by one patient at a time and never used for sleeping. Patients with a history of seizures, active head lice, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, open wounds with drainage that are not covered by a dressing, or any active illnesses requiring isolation precautions should not utilize the room. Patients who are actively displaying violent or self-harm behaviors should not utilize the room.
- (D) The sensory room experience is voluntary. If patients are observed to be experiencing distress or behaving inappropriately, their use of the space will be terminated. The patient can decide to end their session in the sensory room at any time.
- (E) Expectations for sensory room use and behavior will be explained to the patient prior to using the room.

- (F) Staff will set a time limit of thirty minutes for patients to be in the sensory room. Upon expiration of that time limit, staff can reassess and allow the patient more time, if indicated.
- (G) The level of observation that is ordered for the patient will be maintained while the patient is in the sensory room.
- (H) After a patient uses the sensory room, all items in the room will be disinfected with Sani-Cloth disinfecting wipes. This includes any fidget items from the sensory bin, wall-mounted sensory items, chairs, and floor mats.

Approved by:

*Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC  
Chief Nursing Officer*

Initial effective date:

May 2026

Review/Revision Date:

Review/Revision Completed by:

*Stephanie Calmes, PhD, LPCC-S,  
LICDC-CS  
Administrative Director, Psychiatry*

Next review date:

May 2029

*Kassa Casey, MSN, RN, GERO-BC,  
CDP  
Nurse Director-  
Inpatient Behavioral Health*