



University of Toledo Medical Center

Department of Medicine Ryan White Care Clinic Service Guidelines

Title: Personal Panic Button

Purpose: This guideline outlines the purpose and procedures for use of the Personal Panic Button

Related Policies/Guidelines: 3364-170-04 Suicide Risk Screening and Assessment, Guideline Suicide Risk Screen.

Accountability: It is the responsibility of the employee to use skills learned during annual crisis training to assist in the management of patient behavior; however, it is recognized that there may be times when additional support may be needed to address unsafe behaviors. It is the responsibility of the employee to critically think before activating the Personal Panic Button to reduce the possibility of unintended consequences that may result due to the activation of such device.

Procedure:

1. When a staff member encounters an unsafe situation where they believe their safety to be at risk and cannot by any other means create safety for themselves (i.e., verbal de-escalation, leave the immediate area, etc.) the staff member may elect to activate the Personal Panic Button
2. Staff members who hear the Personal Panic Button and are not actively engaged in direct patient care are to respond to the area to offer assistance. Staff member activating the Personal Panic Button will be responsible for directing how responders can assist.
3. Personal Panic Button will be deactivated once support arrives.
4. The provider, or in cases of supervised care, the supervisor may be responsible for the management of the patient.
5. A debriefing with staff shall occur following such incident to assist and support in the well-being of staff as well as evaluate future needs, i.e., clinic process, safety considerations, training, etc.

Resources:

Professional Assault Crisis Training

Reviewed by: Virginia York, LPCC-S, Katie Himich

Initiated: 8/28/2023

Reviewed/Revised: