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From: Hignight Sarah C on behalf of Matteucci Dolores (Dolly)
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 9:59 AM
Subject: Temporary halt to patient comingling
Attachments: Trails 1 dining schedule.xlsx; Springs dining schedule.xlsx; Harbors dining schedule.xlsx; Trails 2 dining schedule.xlsx; Bridges dining schedule.xlsx

This email is for all OSH staff in Salem, on behalf of the OSH Executive Team.

Dear OSH Team,

In continuation of a message Dr. Walker sent June 2 regarding contraband (copied below in case you missed it), we find ourselves in a difficult situation. We have recently had multiple incidents of discovering contraband within the secure perimeter. Honoring our commitment to patient and staff safety, multiple conversations across a variety of settings were held about how to best interrupt the potential for future incidents. It was decided that beginning **Monday, June 12**, OSH will temporarily halt patient comingling on the Salem campus. This will affect unit dining schedules, treatment malls and visitation.

- Dining schedules will include a combination of patients eating in the dining room and on the units, similar to the structure used during the pandemic. Please see attachment for specific times.
- Off-unit treatment services that had returned to comingled status, such as treatment malls, Supported Education and Vocational Services, will return to permitting only patients from the same unit to attend at one time. Other services will be suspended. Temporarily suspended services include:

- Patient NEO panel
- PAC
- NA, AA, DDA
- Plural
- Muser
- Open mic
- In-person shopping at the market & clothing store
- Native Services groups
- Mall-to-mall referrals
- Sex Offender Treatment groups
- DDA picnic outing
- Worship services gatherings

- Visitation continues. The number of visits allowed at a time will be reduced, but we do not anticipate that this will have a noticeable impact, based on our current visitation patterns. Each patient will have no more than two adult visitors at a time. There is no limit on child visitors. Visitors may still purchase food at the Kirkbride Café to be eaten during the visit.
- The PRIDE celebration planned for June 21 will be postponed.

Additionally, we will continue with heightened environmental surveillance during this time.

We all know the benefit of coming together as one community. Our hearts have been full and spirits brighter with the rollback of COVID restrictions, and this temporary intervention is incredibly disappointing. Once again, we will address challenges together, lending support to one another as we navigate this time to ensure a safe community for all.

Thank you,

Dolly

Dolly Matteucci (she, her, hers)

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Dear OSH Team,

In recent weeks we've had multiple incidents of contraband within the secure perimeter. As a hospital it's our collective responsibility to keep our patients safe and healthy. I am emailing today to ask for everybody's help in addressing this issue.

In the same way that handwashing is a core aspect of primary prevention for patient safety, so are the steps we take to prevent access to items which could be harmful to patients. Here's what you can do:

See It – Stop It – Document It

See It

Maintain awareness of your environment and the people around you. Contraband can come through multiple channels:

- Mail/packages

- Visitors
- Staff

Some items are permitted under specific circumstances, like medications or items used with supervision in treatment groups or vocational services. They become contraband when they are diverted from their intended use. Others, like illicit drugs or weapons, are never permitted.

You might see something being handed to a patient, or an item may be hidden in an area that patients from multiple units regularly use (off-unit bathrooms, library, quads, etc.) An item may have been left behind in a patient area or dropped by someone who is not aware of it.

We might become aware of a substance having entered the building when we see its effects – a patient who appears intoxicated/high or is obtunded or in respiratory distress, for example.

If you are in the secure perimeter, be on the lookout for any of these situations. And **if you are escorting a patient off the unit, a search of bathrooms or any other room where the patient will be unobserved is needed, both before and after the patient uses the room.** (NOTE: this is already standard for Security, unit staff and Treatment Mall staff, but also applies to clinical staff or anybody else who might be accompanying a patient. Keep a pair of gloves with you and be sure to look in trash cans, behind toilets and under sinks.)

Stop It

How you intervene will depend on the situation. For more information, please review [OSH Policy 8.019, Staff Response to Alleged Criminal Acts & Contraband](#).

If you see something being handed to a patient, **intervene as soon as possible**. Get additional staff if necessary, but ask for the item and do not leave the patient alone. (If the person handing off the item is another patient, make sure both patients remain with staff.) Then follow the next steps below.

If you find an item, follow the steps below.

Next steps:

1. Call Security.
 - Security is responsible for securing the item and notifying the Oregon State Police, if appropriate. Bringing in contraband is a Class C felony, so we take this seriously.
 - If the item is a pill or something that might be a medication, Security will involve the Pharmacy to identify it and determine if it is something OSH dispenses.
 - If the person bringing in contraband is a visitor, Security also needs to address their visitation approval.
2. Notify the unit RN if a known patient is involved or an item is found on a unit. If an item is found off a unit, notify the manager for that area.

3. Until Security arrives, secure the item. Ensure that it is placed in a bag and labeled with all of the following information:
 - date/time found
 - location found
 - staff involved (including all staff who have touched the item, in the order they did so)
 - patient(s) involved.

Then place the bagged item in a secure location with limited access, such as the Nurse Manager's office on a unit. Give the item to Security staff when they arrive.

4. If an item is found on a unit or treatment mall, notify the Program Director.

Document it

Complete an incident report. In addition, if a known patient is involved, document the incident in the patient's chart.

Other considerations

- If a personal search is required, follow [OSH Policy 8.041, Patient Personal Searches](#).
- If a medical emergency arises, call a Code Blue.
- If a property search is required, the Program Director must approve. The Administrator On Duty can approve if the PD cannot be reached.
- Drug screening (or checking therapeutic drug levels, if appropriate) should be considered if there is suspicion of drug diversion or substance use. Contact a Supervising Psychiatrist, Dr. Strawn, Dr. Hennan or me with questions regarding drug screening.

Thank you all for your help keeping our patients safe.

Sara

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: sara.walker@oha.oregon.gov

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“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

- Thomas Edison