

ASMS – Assess Your Surroundings and Monitor for Safety

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Patients' Rights Office

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Slide 2

3 S'S

- SAFETY of unit
- SAFETY of patients
- SAFETY of advocates

Slide 3

SAFETY OF UNIT

Slide 4

PATIENT SAFETY PLAN

A health facility...shall develop, implement, and comply with a Patient Safety Plan (PSP) for the purpose of improving the health and safety of patients and reducing preventable Patient Safety Events (PSE).

Health & Safety 1279.6

Slide 5

PATIENT SAFETY EVENTS

Shall be defined by the Patient Safety Plan and shall include:

- All Adverse Events
- Potential Adverse Events

Health & Safety 1279.6 (5)(c)

Slide 6

PATIENT SAFETY PLAN

The Patient Safety Plan shall be developed by the facility, in consultation with the facility's various health care professionals.

Health & Safety 1279.6

Slide 7

PATIENT SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Patient Safety Committee (PSC) shall be composed of various health care professionals, a multidisciplinary health care provider team, i.e.

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Pharmacists
- Administrators
- Social Workers
- Directors

Health & Safety 1279.6 (1)

Slide 8

SAFETY COMMITTEE DUTIES

- Review and approve the Patient Safety Plan.
- Receive and review reports of Patient **Safety Events (Adverse Events)**.
- Monitor implementation of corrective actions for Patient Safety Events.
- Make recommendations to eliminate future Patient Safety Events.
- Review and revise the PSP, at least once a year, but more often if necessary, to evaluate and update the plan, and to incorporate advancements in patient safety practices.

Health & Safety 1279.6 (1) (A-E)

Slide 9

SAFETY COMMITTEE DUTIES (CONT.)

Develop a reporting system for Patient Safety Events that allows anyone involved, including, but not limited to, health care practitioners, facility employees, patients, and visitors, to make a report of a Patient Safety Event to the health facility.

Health & Safety 1279.6 (2)

Slide 10

SAFETY COMMITTEE DUTIES (CONT.)

- Must develop a process for a team of facility staff to conduct analyses, including but not limited to, root cause analyses of Patient Safety Events.
- The team shall be composed of the facility's various categories of health care professionals, with the appropriate competencies to conduct the required analyses. Health & Safety 1279.6 (2)

Slide 11

SAFETY COMMITTEE DUTIES (CONT.)

- Develop a reporting process that supports and encourages a culture of safety and reporting Patient Safety Events.
- Develop a process for providing ongoing patient safety training for facility personnel and health care practitioners.

Health & Safety 1279.6 (4, 5)

Slide 12

SAFETY COMPLAINT

- Once a report is received of an ongoing threat of imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, the department shall make an onsite inspection or investigation within 48 hours or two business days, whichever is greater.
- Investigation must be complete within 45 days.

Health & Safety Code 1279.2

Slide 13

SAFETY OF PATIENTS

Slide 14

OBSERVATION

- Observe the overall functioning of the unit.
- Pay close attention without appearing to pay close attention.
- Observe staff interactions with all patients.
- Observe activities or lack thereof.
 - Is the activity schedule being adhered to?
 - Are patients wandering aimlessly with nothing to do?

Slide 15

OBSERVATION (CONT.)

- Look in patient rooms as you pass by
- Are patients lying on the floor?
- Do beds have bedding?
- Pillows

Slide 16

OBSERVATION (CONT.)

- Are patients engaged in inappropriate behaviors unbeknownst to staff?
- Observe active Seclusion & Restraint activity from a safe distance
- Was the Least Restrictive method used?

Slide 17

MINIMIZE RISK

Risk can be defined as:

- the possibility that adverse or dangerous events can occur
- The belief that prevention of these events is achievable

Slide 18

MINIMIZE RISK

- Work with administration
 - Implement Team approach
- Be proactive

- Identify possible risks
- Take preventive action to resolve and eliminate risks

Slide 19

SAFETY OF ADVOCATE

Slide 20

SAFETY

Psychological Safety refers to the ability to keep oneself out of harm's way and to rely on one's own ability to self-protect against any outside destructive influences.

Slide 21

PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY

Psychological Safety begins the moment you leave your home en route to a psychiatric facility.

Slide 22

PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY

Before you enter the unit:

- LISTEN for any noises and sounds that indicate an unusual occurrence is on the other side of the door.
- LOOK for signs that a patient is ready to AWOL when you open the door.

Slide 23

MEETING WITH CONSUMERS

BEFORE meeting with patient review the chart.

- Ask staff if there are any precautions.
- Ask staff to show you who the patient is.
- Identify if there is a need to have staff stand nearby during your meeting with patient.

Slide 24

MEETING WITH CONSUMERS

Dangerousness Precautions

If patient has been certified for dangerousness associated with the current Hospitalization & has exhibited dangerous behaviors during this current hospitalization BE CAREFUL.

Slide 25

KEY SAFETY POINTS

- Be alert at all times
- Travel lightly – few supplies
- Wear minimal dangling jewelry
- Wear closed toe shoes with grip soles
- Keep a safe distance—at least leg distance from patient
- Stay positioned for easy exit if needed
- Consider not wearing scarves or any clothing that could be used to restrain you

Slide 26

BENEFITS OF A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- Decrease in physical injuries
- Decrease in restraints
 - Chemical restraints
 - Physical restraints
- Faster patient recovery time
- Decrease in patient hospitalization time

Slide 27

Facility Walk-Thru Check List

Facility Name

Advocate

Contact Name

Date

Cleanliness and safety of facility	Y/N	Notes
- Dining room		
- Activity areas		
- Bedrooms		
- Bathroom in patient room		
- Operating payphones		
- Accessible vending machines		
Canteen		
- Letter and writing materials available		
- Emergency evacuation plan posted		
- Patient's Rights poster displayed		
- Grievance Procedure pamphlets		
And grievance forms available		
- Supply of Patient's Rights handbooks		
- Secure outdoor area		

Slide28

ASMS

**ASSESS YOUR
SURROUNDINGS AND
MONITOR FOR
SAFETY**

Slide 29

RETURN

home to your family the same way you left them in the morning

SAFE