



This practice alert is being sent to all RN's

Dear All Nurses,

To promote the safety of our patients and staff during the Covid-19 crisis, an update to **NUR-ADM-POL-8228 Suicide Screening and Precautions** will take place immediately. This change identifies additional precautions to be taken when caring for **an inpatient who is COVID-19 positive and on suicide precautions.**

Continuous observation of the patient must be maintained with the ability to immediately intervene.

- The patient will be placed in a room that is equipped with Constant Care and a windowed door.
- A 1:1 observer will be assigned to the patient.
- The 1:1 observer must always have full continuous view of the patient and be able to intervene without delay if necessary.
- It is permissible for the 1:1 observer to be outside the room, but the 1:1 observer must be able to maintain full continuous view of the patient through a window since the door will be closed.
 - The isolation sign on the door should be placed in the lower right corner of the window to be visible to all staff entering the room and to permit optimal visibility of the patient through the window.
- The 1:1 observer is donned with appropriate PPE to ensure entry into the room without delay when necessary.
 - Immediately prior to assuming the role, the 1:1 observer dons and doffs PPE including N95 mask, gown, face shield, gloves in the presence of a staff member using the buddy checklist.
 - Ensure the patient's face, neck, and hands are visible at all times.
 - During patient's use of the bathroom or while showering, the observer must remain in the patient's room donned in appropriate PPE and always stay in full view of the patient. When permissible, the observer maintains a distance of 6 feet.
- Break coverage will be arranged at the beginning of the shift. Observers of COVID positive patients should be relieved every 3 hours and prn by an observer who is fully garbed in PPE.
- The RN will review the 1:1 observer and constant care observer's responsibilities at the beginning of each shift, prior to breaks and as needed.

- The 1:1 observer must immediately notify the RN of any patient needs, requests, or problems.
- The Constant Care observer will provide supplemental and independent observation of the patient via the Constant Care Program's video.
 - The Constant Care observer will immediately issue a Level 2 alarm to notify staff of any concerning actions or situations in the patient's room for which staff will immediately respond.
 - Per protocol, the Constant Care observer will be rotated every 4 hours and prn.
- All other suicide precautions as described in **NUR-ADM-POL-8228 Suicide Screening and Precautions** will be maintained, such as environmental room sweeps to remove any potential self-harm risks.
- The RN will notify Psychiatry and Nursing Leadership of any concerns in maintaining suicide precautions.
- In the event that the patient becomes agitated and unmanageable, a Behavioral RRT is to be called for additional resources.