
Precaution Orders

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Introduction: Precaution orders help ensure the safety and well-being of patients and staff. Here's an overview of common precaution orders as well as examples of what they entail in terms of additional monitoring and intervention.

Assault Precautions:

- **Purpose:** To protect staff and other patients from individuals who may exhibit aggressive or violent behavior.
- **Details:**
 - Close observation of the patient.
 - Restriction of access to potential weapons such as pens and plastic utensils.
 - For patients who are particularly unpredictable or violent, consider having staff work in pairs for added safety.

Elopement Precautions:

- **Purpose:** To prevent patients from leaving the facility without authorization.
- **Details:**
 - Increased monitoring during times when doors might be open.
 - Ensuring all exits are secured and constantly monitored to prevent unauthorized departure.

Fall Precautions:

- **Purpose:** To prevent falls in patients at risk due to factors like medication side effects, mobility issues, or cognitive impairment.
- **Details:**
 - Daily fall risk assessments by nursing staff.
 - Assistance with walking, transfers, and toileting.
 - Assessment and provision of mobility aids such as wheelchairs or walkers as needed.

Hypersexual Precautions:

- **Purpose:** To manage and mitigate inappropriate sexual behaviors.
- **Details:**
 - Close monitoring to prevent inappropriate behaviors like sexual advances or touching.
 - When possible, assigning caregivers of the same gender to the patient to reduce triggers and inappropriate conduct.

Isolation Precautions (Standard, Contact, Droplet, Airborne):

- **Purpose:** To prevent the spread of infectious diseases by isolating the patient.
- **Details:**
 - Hand hygiene before and after patient contact.
 - Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, gowns, and masks.
 - Placement of patients in private rooms or cohorting with similar patients when necessary.
 - Immediate cleaning and disinfecting in cases of blood and body fluid exposure.
 - Prompt reporting of exposure incidents to the infection control team.

Medication Compliance Precautions:

- To ensure patients take their medications as prescribed and prevent them from hoarding or hiding pills, which can lead to overdose or other safety issues.
 - Staff will monitor patients during medication administration, ensuring each dose is swallowed and not "cheeked" (hidden in the cheek to spit out later).
 - Consider using liquid formulations or dissolvable tablets when appropriate to minimize the risk of cheeking.

Seizure Precautions:

- **Purpose:** To protect patients who are at risk of seizures.
- **Details:**
 - Ensuring the patient's bed has padded and raised bed rails.
 - Observing patients for signs of impending seizures, such as auras or unusual behaviors, to intervene promptly.

Suicide Precautions:

- **Purpose:** To protect patients who are at risk of self-harm or suicide.
- **Details:**
 - Conducting checks every 15 minutes or maintaining constant observation.
 - Removing potentially harmful objects from the patient's room.
 - Frequent interaction with the patient to assess their mental state and provide emotional support.