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FAQ No.: 37

FAQ: Can an organization utilize a restraint protocol without an LIP order?

ANSWER:

No. "Restraint protocols" are not acceptable. **The only acceptable protocol would be a clinical protocol which includes the use of restraints when all other treatment options and alternatives have failed.** A restraint protocol that solely describes when a restraint is used and is not part of the clinical care of the resident/patient, i.e., a restraint protocol, is not considered a clinical protocol.

A clinical protocol places a restraint in the context of a larger series of clinical care processes used for specific non-behavioral health conditions and resident/patients. Restraint is not a clinical care treatment option. Restraint represents the failure of all clinical care options and alternatives.

The standard would permit the use of a clinical protocol that include restraint usage when the clinical protocol:

- Is focused on the clinical care of residents/patients (for example ventilator residents/patients, central line residents/patients) and represents a full continuum of use of alternatives prior to implementing the use of restraints.
- Is approved by the medical staff when the organization has an organized medical staff; or by the medical director in the absence of an organized medical staff
- Implementation is ordered in writing by the LIP for each specific resident/patient
- Contains specific criteria for determining when restraint is or is not needed as part of the care (for example, sedation, confusion, self extubation)
- Identifies possible alternatives
- Is backed up with staff education for those who will use the protocol
- Is consistent with organization policy, and
- There is documented evidence that all other treatment options and alternatives have been attempted and have failed.

Authorized staff can initiate, maintain and terminate restraints in accordance with medical staff approved criteria for restraints based on the individual patient's need and appropriate clinical justification, without obtaining an order from an LIP.

Source : JCAHO Standards Clarifications on Restraint Protocols

Website:<http://www.jcaho.org>

We hope that this answers your questions. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call Posey Customer Service at (800) 44-Posey or (800) 447-6739.