

| Behavioral Health Patient Bathroom Ligature & Safety Risk Evaluation |  |
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| Patient Bathrooms Evaluated:   |  |
| Date Evaluation was Completed:                                       |  |
| Signature of Department Director:                                    |  |
| Date Assessment Went to Environment of Care and Quality Committee:   |  |

| SAFETY EVALUATION   | Compliant   | Mitigation / Management Strategy identified and documented through Annual Ligature Risk Assessment | Retrofit considerations   | Action Plan | Completion Date |
|---|---|--|---|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Patient Bathroom Door</b> (if provided <sup>1</sup> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Door type should be Sentinel Event Reduction Door; Soft Suicide Prevention Door; 30° angled top with minimum 6" undercut and</li> </ul> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut or replace door</li> </ul> |             |                 |

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| <p>1" gap at latch edge; ligature resistant door with over the door alarm; or Other approved ligature resistant door type</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hinge continuous hinge with tapered tip</li> <li>• Ligature-resistant hardware, pulls and trim</li> <li>• No independently operated deadbolts</li> <li>• Are doors free of hold-open devices and self-closers that could be used as an anchor point for hanging?</li> </ul> | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace hinge</li> <li>• Replace hardware</li> <li>• Remove deadbolt. Consider classroom lock function on lockset.</li> <li>• Remove auto-closures.</li> </ul> |  |  |
| <p><b>Shower</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shower head and valve are ligature-resistant type</li> <li>• Shower curtains - If provided<sup>2</sup>, shower curtains are hung from ceiling mounted tracks with curtains designed to tear away when a static load of 5 pounds or more is applied (including when connections are aggregated).</li> </ul>   | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>   | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace to be ligature resistant type</li> <li>• Remove or Replace track and shower curtain to be ligature and tamper resistant type</li> </ul>                |  |  |
| <p><b>Plumbing Fixtures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toilet<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Exposed plumbing - Lavatory waste and supply line piping is fully recessed or ligature-resistant covers are installed using tamper-resistant fasteners. Plumbing cannot be visualized or accessed in any way by the patient.</li> </ul>   | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>   | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace with appropriate type.</li> <li>• Replace or cover with appropriate product.</li> </ul>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Ceilings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-accessible solid gypsum in patient bathrooms</li> <li>• Access doors in solid ceilings are locked using a key or special tool to prevent unauthorized access and secured to the ceiling using tamper resistant fasteners</li> <li>• Fire sprinkler heads are tamper resistant</li> </ul>   | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>  | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> </ul>   |  |  |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HVAC grills are anti-ligature type with 1/8" perforated grates or vandal-resistant covers are installed using tamper-resistant fasteners</li> <li>• Are vents in the ceiling flush mounted with the ceiling surface and secured with tamper resistant fasteners so they cannot serve as an anchor point for hanging?</li> <li>• Are edges caulked with tamper resistant caulk to avoid being used as anchor point or sharp?</li> <li>• Ceilings in treatment/social areas should receive acoustical treatment to prevent noise from interfering with the therapy<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>   | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>  | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> </ul>                                       |  |  |
| <p><b>Walls</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Electrical outlets</b> have a tamer resistant cover plate are security type and are connected to a GFI circuit.</li> <li>• <b>Grab bars</b> been eliminated where they are not needed, or are ligature-resistant type<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• <b>Nurse call and emergency call</b> switches (if provided) comply with one of the following: Cords should be made out of plastic bead type materials or breakaway type (5 lbs. max weight); OR (preferred) flush mount button<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• <b>Light fixtures</b> in patient accessible areas are: 1) securely fastened are Tamper-resistant institutional type; 2) No glass components used or accessible to patient, 3) Impact-resistant protective covers provided (e.g. Lexan, steel mesh, etc.)</li> <li>• <b>Mirrors</b> are shatter proof or other non breakable material and affixed to the wall using tamper resistant fasteners and unable to be used as an anchor point for hanging</li> </ul> | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> </ul> |  |  |
| <p><b>Floors<sup>7</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Flooring</b> type should be reviewed and considered from an overall safety standpoint. If existing flooring is failing, has</li> </ul>  | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>   | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> </ul>   |  |  |

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| <p>pickable seams or is otherwise at an age or state that could lead to safety concerns, it should be replaced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Drains</b> are ligature resistant type with small holes spaced to prevent looping.</li> <li>• <b>Base</b> is affixed to the wall to prevent removal</li> </ul>   | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>  | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Affix base to prevent removal</li> </ul>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Accessories<sup>8</sup></b> are recessed or ligature-resistant type and are secured with tamper resistant fasteners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clothing/towel hooks</b></li> <li>• <b>Soap dispensers</b></li> <li>• <b>Paper towel shelf/dispenser</b></li> <li>• <b>Toilet paper dispenser</b></li> <li>• <b>Trash Cans</b> - No plastic can liners; Furnished with 3/4" diameter holes drilled in the bottom for drainage purposes</li> </ul> | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> <li>• Replace with safe material</li> </ul> |  |  |

Footnotes

1. Currently, there is no perfect solution for toilet room doors when leading directly from a bedroom. The safest solutions are not the most private solutions, and the most private solutions are not the safest.
  - a. If the bedroom is single occupancy and the doorway cannot be seen from the corridor, consider removing the door.
  - b. If the bedroom is single occupancy and the doorway can be seen from the corridor, consider a padded door.
  - c. If the bedroom is double occupancy, privacy must take precedence. Install a door with the necessary safety features to create the safest possible environment. Consider an over the door alarm as part of the solution and carefully review every aspect of the condition.
2. While there is no consensus, many in the industry believe that shower curtains are an inherent safety issue and there is risk of this condition being cited.
  - a. Ideally a patient toilet room should have a shower drain and a floor drain, and the slope of the floor and positioning of the shower head are carefully considered to keep water within the shower area.

- b. If water management is an issue, a saloon style soft door may be a safer solution than a curtain and may also alleviate some privacy issues if the toilet room has no door.
3. There are several considerations for toilets.
  - a. There is no consensus over whether stainless steel toilets are required or if vitreous china is acceptable. Stainless steel offers obvious durability advantages, while patient surveys show that a vitreous china toilet is strongly preferred by patients and their families. Whichever type is in the facility or is chosen as a replacement, the facility's Patient Safety Risk Assessment should clearly note the type and reasoning.
  - b. The Joint Commission has clearly stated that pivoting toilet seats will not be cited, and patient surveys show that these are strongly preferred by patients and their families. If the facility has pivoting toilet seats, the facility's Patient Safety Risk Assessment should clearly note this with reference to the justification. *Whatever type of seat is provided, we strongly suggest the facility leaders test it and only select a toilet seat they would be willing to use every day.*
  - c. Toilets must not create ligature points through exposed piping. There also cannot be a gap between the toilet and the wall/floor intersection. This requires a specialty toilet designed to fill this gap. If the facility has a toilet with a gap at the back corner, those toilets must be replaced.
  - d. Toilet bolts are a potential hazard. The facility should consider gluing the bolt covers down to prevent patient access to the bolts.
4. Solid gypsum ceilings are safest option. However, because the therapeutic environment is inherently social and patients are especially sensitive to environment agitation, the acoustics of patient social and therapy spaces is crucial to positive outcomes. Many facilities use an accessible acoustical ceiling tile system with clips to prevent patient access. This is a viable solution in areas that will be regularly observed by staff. If the facility has blind corners or other seldom used areas, consider a more secure ceiling system. If rooms are separated from the milieu, consider an operational paradigm that keeps those doors locked and only accessible with staff present.
5. There are several considerations for grab bars
  - a. Consider both safety and infection control. Historically, many facilities have used a traditional grab bar and added a welded plate to the bottom. While this reduces ligature risk it creates a virtually uncleanable condition, especially in showers. If the facility has this, consult with infection control, and consider replacing with a grab bar designed for safety and cleanability.
  - b. Consider not just loopability through the grab bar, but also loopability from end to end. If the grab bar can be looped using one of the ends, it needs to be replaced.
  - c. Many new products that offer ligature resistance, cleanability and no end-to-end loopability have flared ends. Carefully measure the size of the entire grab bar to ensure it fits in the available space.

6. In most jurisdictions, nurse call is not required on psychiatric treatment units. If it is required, or desired for operational reasons, the best way to achieve the high low condition required in toilet rooms is to install two devices (high and low) with flush buttons.
7. There are several considerations for floors
  - a. Flooring should have an appropriate level of slip resistance and cleanability.
  - b. Flooring should be simple. Complex or overly colorful abstract flooring patterns can cause agitation in many patients.
  - c. There is no consensus, but many facilities have found that small tiles are easier for patients to break out and weaponize. Using larger tiles alleviates this concern and are often easier to clean.
  - d. Wall base should be affixed to the wall. Some facilities prefer to use a painted wood base which can be fastened to the studs with countersunk and puttied fasteners with all gaps caulked for cleanability. Where using rubber base, consider fully adhering it to the wall. In patient bedrooms, many facilities eliminate the base and use security caulk at the floor-wall intersection. This requires the wall and floor to be fully finished to the edges.
8. There are a wide variety of cleverly designed accessory products for behavioral healthcare environments, and all offer different advantages and disadvantages. Carefully consider whether the existing accessories are appropriately ligature resistant and cleanable. If not, consider all aspects of the choice including back to back conditions for recessed accessories. Hooks are a particularly difficult choice. If a ligature resistant shelf or bench is an option that may be the best option for the patients.

### **Options for Management or Mitigation Strategies:**

Visual Observation; 1:1 supervision; Keeping doors open at all times; Locking doors when room not utilized; Continuous rounding by an assigned staff member; Ensuring staff member is assigned to be in the activity room with patients at all times, while patients are present.



**Corrective Action Plans**

*Facility must document their corrective action plans for each deficiency using the columns provided on this worksheet and sign this attestation. Corrective action plans must be reviewed and approved by the Environment of Care Committee.*

**Environment of Care Committee Approval of Corrective Action Plans**

Authorized Signature

**Executive Leadership Approval of Corrective Action Plans**

Authorized Signature (CEO or COO)

**BH Department Director Approval of Corrective Action Plans**

Authorized Signature of Behavioral Health Department Director

