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| TITLE        | Safety Companion for the COVID-19 Positive or Person Under Investigation Patient in the Emergency Department   |
| TODAY'S DATE | 4/14/2020  |
| SECTION      | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization Wide<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency Department<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inpatient <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory<br><input type="checkbox"/> Nursing <input type="checkbox"/> Medical staff [physicians and advance care practitioners] |

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| APPLICABLE LOCATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> All Bozeman Health locations<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Big Sky Medical Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Belgrade Clinic + UrgentCare<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hillcrest Senior Living<br><input type="checkbox"/> b2 UrgentCare <input type="checkbox"/> b2 MicroCare |
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| VERSION DATE  | 4/14/2020  |
| CONTRIBUTORS  | Safety Officer, ED Manager, ED Director, Medical Manager |
| APPROVED BY   | ED Manager, ED Director, Incident Commander              |
| APPROVAL DATE | April 15, 2020   |

**PURPOSE:** To provide a safe environment for COVID Positive patients or Patients Under Investigation (PUI) who because of physiologic, mental and/or behavioral limitations are deemed at risk for additional injury. A safety companion is initiated by a physician order and/or nursing judgment. A safety companion is required when a patient has made a suicide attempt or is experiencing suicidal ideations. The House Supervisor will be notified with all requests for safety companion services

**POLICY/PROTOCOL:**

1. The type of safety companion required will be determined by the patient's underlying condition.
  - a. Level 1 Safety Companion: Patients with mental status changes due to physiologic abnormalities (e.g. decreased level of consciousness; confusion; dementia).
  
  - b. Level 2 Safety Companion: Patients experiencing Suicidal Ideations and/or Co-Occurring Mental Illness.  
*Type of Safety Companion: Hospital staff or Bozeman Health contracted Security Company. The House Supervisor will facilitate acquiring safety companions for Level 1 and 2 patients*
  
  - c. Level 3 Safety Companion: Patients under Protective Custody  
*Type of Safety Companion: Law Enforcement*

**HOSPITAL SAFETY COMPANION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The patient must be observed at all times via direct observation and never left unobserved, including toileting.
- The safety companion will be in proper PPE and should be right inside the door of the patient's room at all times and able to intervene immediately.
- Use of personal cell phones, pagers and computers inside the patient room is not permitted. Personal cell phones, pagers and computers may be used only during the safety companion's break. The safety companion may bring personal reading material to use when patient is sleeping and all duties are completed.
- All safety companions receive a 30 minute meal break during their shift. Other staff will be scheduled to stay with the patient when designated companion is on break. A complete and thorough handoff will be given when there is a change in staff.



**NOTES:**

**OTHER POLICIES/PROTOCOLS TO REFERENCE:**

**Care of Patients Who Are Restrained:**

**Related policy: Restraints – Non-Violent & Violent/Self-Destructive**

The Safety Companion may not apply or remove restraints. Nursing staff is responsible for all ADL assistance.

**Care of A Suicidal Patient:**

**Related policy: Suicide Precautions**

- Patients who have attempted or have expressed a desire to commit suicide must be taken seriously and protected from harming themselves. This is accomplished through a team approach including the RN, unit staff and 1-to-1 monitoring by a dedicated patient safety companion. It is extremely important that the safety companion is awake and alert while caring for this patient!

**If an emergency situation should arise the safety companion should stay with the patient and call for help out the door or use the patient call light.**

- The safety companion needs to check on the patient and document the results every 60 minutes by documenting on the Suicide Precautions flowsheet.
- If the assigned patient leaves the floor for treatments or diagnostic testing, the safety companion is required and expected to accompany the patient for the duration of the test. This may alter break times previously agreed upon earlier in the day. The exception is if the patient is going for an MRI, in which case a Radiology staff member will accompany the patient.
- The safety companion is required and expected to remain with the assigned patient until relief has arrived.
- The safety companion is expected to communicate with the RN caring for the patient throughout the assigned shift.

**Documentation Requirements:**

- The primary RN will document on the patient's neurological, psychosocial, observation, and isolation/precautions status in M-S Assess, CC Assess or PP Assess Flowsheet upon assessment.
- If there is a change in patient's status, the primary RN will reassess and document the changes