

UCONN HEALTH

UCONN JOHN DEMPSEY
HOSPITAL

SECTION: QUALITY MANAGEMENT

NUMBER: 11-018A

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES
HAZARDOUS ITEMS, SUSPECTED
CONTRABAND OR WEAPONS

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PURPOSE: To provide a mechanism for the removal and disposal of various unknown substances which are believed to belong to a patient.


POLICY: UConn Police are authorized to confiscate and dispose of any illegal substances or suspected contraband.

PROCEDURE:

1. Alcohol should be disposed of or sent home with the patient's family.
2. Knives, if not illegal weapons, are patient property just like a watch. These will be sent home with family members or kept with patient valuables.
3. Illegal weapons, such as knives with a cutting edge over 4" in length or switchblade knives or martial arts weapons should be seized as contraband and turned over to the police department for disposal. If in doubt, call the police and a police officer will respond to evaluate.
4. Fireworks or other potentially hazardous items should be turned over to the police. Except in serious cases, it will not be necessary to identify the patient by name.
5. Firearms must be called to the attention of the police department immediately. If the person is unconscious or voluntarily hands over the weapon, place it out of public view and have a staff member standby until the police can respond and safely take possession.

If staff observe a firearm, they should call the police immediately on the Emergency 911 line. Do not challenge someone who has a firearm!

6. Legally possessed firearms will be kept by the police as found property until the patient is capable of reclaiming.
7. Illegal firearms will be seized by police.
8. If staff have questions regarding an item that may be illegal or dangerous, they should contact the Police Department at x2121 option 1 and a police officer will respond to evaluate.


Andrew Agwunobi, MD, MBA
Chief Executive Officer


Richard H. Simon, MD
Chief of Medical Staff

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