

NORTHPOINTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

POLICY TITLE: Freedom of Movement

PAGE: 1 of 2

MANUAL: Recipient Rights

SECTION: Rights

ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/1/99

BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 11/25/13

REVIEWED/REVISED ON DATE: 3/15/18

CURRENT EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/1/18

REVISIONS TO POLICY STATEMENT: YES NO

OTHER REVISIONS: YES NO

APPLIES TO:

All Northpointe programs operated by or under contract with Northpointe Behavioral Healthcare Systems.

POLICY:

It is the policy of Northpointe Behavioral Healthcare Systems to ensure freedom of movement to service recipients.

PURPOSE:

To establish policies and procedures to ensure freedom of movement to service recipients.

PROCEDURES:

- A. Recipients shall receive treatment in the least restrictive setting.
- B. The freedom of movement of a recipient shall not be restricted more than is necessary to provide mental health services to him or her, to prevent injury to him or her or to others, or to prevent substantial property damage, except that security precautions appropriate to the condition and circumstances of an individual admitted by order of a criminal court or transferred as a sentence-serving convict from a penal institution.
- C. Service recipients' freedom of movement shall not be restricted more than what is clinically justified and shall be on a time limited basis.
- D. All restrictions of freedom of movement must be approved by the Behavior Treatment Committee.
- E. Service recipients shall be informed of their rights related to freedom of movement.
- F. Service recipients shall be given the right to appeal restrictions regarding freedom of movement.
- G. Recipients shall have the freedom to move about in public areas such as the waiting room and restroom of NBHS.
- H. Recipients shall have the right to access areas suited for vocational, social and recreational activities.
- I. Service recipients whose freedom of movement is restricted per his/her Individual Plan of Service shall have each instance of limitation justified and time limited. This shall be documented in his/her progress notes. This information shall be reviewed by the Responsible Care Manager and other involved staff members on a regular basis to discuss the service recipient's progress or lack of progress and determine if the freedom of movement restriction still needs to be imposed. The Responsible Care Manager/Clinician shall document the above information in the recipient's clinical record.
- J. Any restriction on freedom of movement of a recipient is removed when the circumstance that justified its adoption ceases to exist.
- K. Service recipients whose freedom of movement is restricted in an emergency situation shall be reviewed by the Responsible Care Manager/Clinician and other involved staff members within 72 hours and weekly thereafter to discuss the service recipient's progress or lack of progress and determine if the freedom of movement restriction still needs to be imposed. The above information shall be documented according to the procedures in number one (1) of this policy.

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- L. A service recipient shall not be transferred to a more restrictive setting unless evidence exists that the recipient presents a substantial danger to others. The justification shall be documented by the Responsible Care Manager/Clinician in the recipient's clinical record.

- M. If a service recipient's freedom of movement is restricted the Responsible Care Manager/Clinician shall inform the recipient's guardian, parent of a minor child or Probate Court during the hearing process, if applicable.

- N. The service recipient shall be informed that he/she can file a complaint with the Recipient Rights Officer if he/she feels that his/her right to freedom of movement has been violated.