

10A NCAC 26D .1202 USE OF SECLUSION

- (a) Seclusion shall be used only under one of the following conditions:
- (1) on an emergency basis when it is believed necessary to prevent immediate harm to the client or to others;
or
 - (2) on a non-emergency basis when it is believed that seclusion will resolve the presenting situation, or will produce the desired behavioral change.
- (b) Emergency seclusion shall last no longer than is necessary to control the client.
- (c) Seclusion shall not exceed seven days without the review and approval of an internal committee in accordance with Paragraph (e) of this Rule.
- (d) Observations, or reviews, of any client in seclusion shall be made as follows:
- (1) Any client placed in seclusion will be observed no less than 30 minutes;
 - (2) A clinician may extend this interval up to 60 minutes if, in his clinical opinion, such an observation would not affect the health, safety or welfare of the client;
 - (3) Documentation for extending the observation shall be placed in the client's record;
 - (4) Observations by a clinician shall be made at least daily, or when the clinician is not present at the facility, observations by a health professional shall be reported by telephone to a clinician; and
 - (5) Reviews by an internal committee shall be made in accordance with Paragraph (e) of this Rule.
- (e) Committee review:
- (1) If it appears that seclusion may be indicated for a period to exceed seven days:
 - (A) an internal committee consisting of a clinician, a nurse or member of the medical staff, and a member of the administrative staff shall review the use of seclusion and interview the client; and
 - (B) continued use shall not exceed the initial 7 days without the approval of this committee.
 - (2) Following its initial review, the committee shall review the case at intervals not to exceed 30 days.
- (f) When a client is placed in seclusion, his client record shall contain the following documentation:
- (1) the rationale and authorization for the use of seclusion, including placement in seclusion pending review by the responsible clinician;
 - (2) a record of the observation of the client as required in Subparagraph (d)(1) of this Rule;
 - (3) each review by the responsible clinician as required in Subparagraph (d)(2) of this Rule, including a description of the client's behavior and any significant changes which may have occurred; and
 - (4) each review by the internal committee as required in Paragraph (e) of this Rule.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 148-19(d);
Eff. January 4, 1994.*