

WAC 388-97-0620 Chemical and physical restraints. (1) The resident has the right to be free from any physical or chemical restraint imposed for purposes of:

(a) Discipline or convenience, and not required to treat the resident's medical symptoms; or

(b) Preventing or limiting independent mobility or activity.

(2) The nursing home must develop and implement written policies and procedures governing:

(a) The emergency use of restraints;

(b) The use of chemical and physical restraints, required for the treatment of the resident's medical symptoms, not for discipline or convenience;

(c) The personnel authorized to administer restraints in an emergency; and

(d) Monitoring and controlling the use of restraints.

(3) Physical restraints may be used in an emergency only when:

(a) It has been assessed as necessary to prevent a resident from inflicting injury to self or to others;

(b) The restraint is the least restrictive form of restraint possible;

(c) A physician's order is obtained:

(i) Within twenty-four hours; and

(ii) The order includes treatments to assist in resolving the emergency situation and eliminating the need for the restraint.

(d) The resident is released from the restraint as soon as the emergency no longer exists.

(4) In certain situations, chemical or physical restraints may be necessary for residents with acute or chronic mental or physical impairments. When chemical or physical restraints are used the nursing home must ensure that:

(a) The use of the restraint is related to a specific medical need or problem identified through a multidisciplinary assessment;

(b) The informed consent process is followed as described under WAC 388-97-0260; and

(c) The resident's plan of care provides approaches to reduce or eliminate the use of the restraint, where possible.

(5) The nursing home must ensure that any resident physically restrained is released:

(a) At intervals not to exceed two hours; and

(b) For periods long enough to provide for ambulation, exercise, elimination, food and fluid intake, and socialization as independently as possible.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.51 and 74.42 RCW and 42 C.F.R. 489.52. WSR 08-20-062, § 388-97-0620, filed 9/24/08, effective 11/1/08.]