Connecticut Valley Hospital
Nursing Policy and Procedure

SECTION A: NURSING SERVICE ORGANIZATION
CHAPTER 2: STANDARDS OF NURSING PRACTICE
AND CARE

Policy and Procedure: 2.7.1 Competency Restoration

Authorization: Nursing Executive Committee
Date Effective: May 1, 2018
Scope: Connecticut Valley Hospital

Standard of Practice:
The Nurse implements nursing interventions designed to assist the patient in restoration of competency to stand trial (CST).

Measurement Criteria:

1. The nurse collects objective and subjective data to assess the Patient’s:
   - Understanding of reason for hospitalization.
   - Ability to learn and retain new information.
   - Mental condition.
   - Understanding of how his/her mental condition impacts on his/her CST.
   - Understanding of his/her alleged offense.
   - Understanding of appropriate courtroom behaviors.
   - Knowledge of competency criteria.

2. The nurse notes actual or potential alterations in bio/psycho/social status which might interfere with the patient’s ability to be restored to competency.

   Nursing diagnoses common to patients admitted for competency restoration are:
   - Alteration in thought process.
   - Knowledge deficit.
   - Ineffective individual coping.
   - Potential for violence.
   - Disturbance in self-concept.
3. The nurse collaborates with the patient to identify needs and establish realistic goals:

- To understand the reason for hospitalization.
- To understand how one’s mental condition impacts on his/her CST.
- To participate in treatment planning.
- To cooperate with Unit rules and procedures.
- To discuss appropriate courtroom behaviors.
- To describe basic trial components.
- To discuss fundamental roles of court authorities.
- To complete a competency evaluation.
- To recognize and cope with personal circumstances that impede CST.

4. The nurse designs and implements interventions which:

- Help the patient to understand the reality of his/her situation.
- Alleviate symptoms of the mental condition which interfere with CST.
- Help the patient to follow direction and control behavior.
- Help the patient to identify acceptable courtroom behaviors.
- Teach the patient basic trial components and fundamental roles of court authorities.
- Help the patient to recognize and cope with personal circumstances that impede CST.
- Prepare the patient for probable court disposition.

5. The nurse regularly evaluates the patient’s response to interventions and reviews goal attainment with the patient.

**Standard of Care:**

The patient is assisted by the nurse in restoration of competency to stand trial (CST).

**Measurement Criteria:**

- The patient understands the reason for hospitalization.
- The patient understands how his/her mental condition impacts on his/her CST.
- The patient comprehends appropriate courtroom behavior.
- The patient understands basic trial components.
- The patient understands fundamental roles of authorities in the court.
- The patient completes a competency evaluation.
- The patient identifies methods of remaining competent to stand trial.