Is a spit guard, hood, or mask a restraint?

Any examples are for illustrative purposes only.

If the use of guards or hoods is intended to prevent the spread of body fluids or for other purposes during the management of violent or self-destructive behavior, and it could not be easily removed by the individual, it would be considered a restraint and applicable accreditation and regulatory requirements would apply.

Any device that restricts an individual's freedom of movement or access to their body, such as a spit guard or hood, is considered a restraint when it is not a usual and customary part of a medical diagnostic or treatment procedure to which the individual or their legal representative has consented, is not indicated to treat the individual's medical condition or symptoms or does not promote

the individual's independence.

Generally, if a patient can easily remove a device, the device would not be considered a restraint. In this context, "easily remove" means that the manual method, device, material, or equipment can be removed intentionally by the individual in the same manner as it was applied by the staff, considering the individual's physical condition and ability to accomplish objective.

The organization must be aware of and follow Manufacturer's Instructions for Use (MIFU) of any restraint device, including a spit guard or hood, to ensure proper use and safety of the patient or individual served. It would be up to the organization to determine the appropriate use of spit guards or hoods in accordance with MIFU, organizational policy, and any applicable law or regulation.

Last updated on September 27, 2024 with update notes of: Reflects new or updated requirements

Last Reviewed Date: September 27, 2024

Last Major Update: September 27, 2024