

Ligature Risk

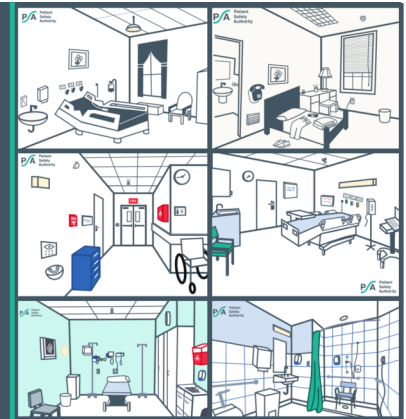
Be sure to check out our Ligature Risk “Risky Rooms” and other resources here

Ligature Risk

“Risky Room” diagrams highlighting ligature risks across multiple care settings are now available on PatientSafety@pa.gov.

Care areas include:

- Intensive Care Unit room
- Behavioral health room
- Corridor
- Med./Surg. Room
- Emergency Department bay
- Bathroom



From the Field

Facility Visit Update

Total facilities who have completed the Ligature Risk Gap Analysis	79
Facilities with behavioral health units	46
Facilities without behavioral health units	33
Facilities (%) that share routine ligature risk updates with their patient safety committee	39%

23% of the facilities cited for ligature risk deficiencies do not have a behavioral health unit.

Of the 33 facilities without behavioral health units, only 40% have an existing process for assessing ligature risk.

Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority
Ligature Risk Gap Analyses

Have You Considered?

Create a checklist for your non-behavioral health rooms to identify items to be removed to make the space as ligature-resistant as possible.

From the Literature

A new study published in the September 2018 Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety provided the first data-driven estimate of the number of suicides in U.S. Hospitals.

Findings included:

- The study supported The Joint Commission Suicide Expert Panel – that hospital settings associated with psychiatric treatment should be made “ligature resistant” environments to decrease the risk of suicide by hanging.
- 70-85% of inpatient suicides were inpatient psych patients
- 90% occurred in private areas (i.e. bathroom, bedroom)
- Hanging accounted for 70% of the suicides
 - Half of those occurred in patient bathrooms
 - One-third occurred in patient bedrooms
- Most widely used fixture points were tops of doors, door handles & hinges

[The Joint Commission](#)