

**BLOOMFIELD CARE CENTRE  
STOCKING LANE, RATHFARNHAM, D.16**

**POLICY STATEMENT: Conducting Searches**

Purpose: To provide guidelines to all staff on the procedure to follow when it is considered necessary to search a resident/patient

**Primary Responsibility: All Staff**

**1. POLICY**

It is the policy of Bloomfield Care Centre that there is a safe environment for residents/patients, staff and members of the public. There may be occasions when it is necessary to search a patient/resident or their property to achieve this.

**2. PROCEDURE**

- 2.1 All staff have a responsibility to inform the nurse in charge of any possible hazardous or illegal items that may be in the possession of a patient/resident.
- 2.2 The nurse in charge will assess the situation and will initiate a search of the resident/patient and his/her property if it is considered necessary.
- 2.3 The consent of the resident/patient should be obtained. If consent is not given the nurse should consult with the medical officer and a clinical decision will be taken based on the assessment of risk of immediate danger to the resident/patient, other residents/patients, staff or members of the public.
- 2.4 When consent is not given the decision to search must be justified and documented in the resident/patient's Care Plan.
- 2.5 The search will be carried out by two staff in a private and dignified manner with due regard to the gender of the resident/patient.
- 2.6 The assistance of the Gardaí may be requested if there is a threat of imminent danger or suspicion of a criminal offence.
- 2.7 The outcome of the search should be documented in the resident/patient's Care Plan.

**Date Issued: May 2007**

**Date for Review: May 2008**

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