

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS
MENTAL HEALTH NURSING
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 2031
VERSION: 2**

SUBJECT/TITLE: CONTACT BETWEEN STAFF AND FORMER PATIENT

MD ORDER:	YES [] NO [X]
POLICY:	<p>Hospitalization can foster a patient’s feelings of dependency on staff. Patients who have emotional difficulties may find it traumatic to break therapeutic ties. Former patients may attempt to maintain these ties by contacting staff in a social setting after discharge. Personal or social relationships between staff and patients can lead to psychological harm.</p> <p>Contact between former patients and staff outside of the hospital is both unethical and detrimental to both the former patient and staff. For these reasons, any contact between staff and former patients is strongly discouraged.</p>
PURPOSE:	To define the policy for contact between staff and former patients.
DEPARTMENTS:	Mental Health Nursing
DEFINITIONS:	Personal or social relationships for the purpose of this policy shall be defined as any contact while the staff member is not on duty.

References:	
Haber, Judith, et al. (1997). <u>Comprehensive Psychiatric Nursing</u> (5th ed.) St. Louis: Mosby.	
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (2004) <u>Accreditation Manuals for Hospitals</u> . Oakbrook Terrace, IL. Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.	
Approved by: Alex Kopelowicz (Chief Physician), Bonnie Bilitch (Chief Nursing Officer)	Date: 03/21/2016
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