

Ligature-resistant Behavioral Health Products

Despite increased efforts to identify suicide risk among hospital patients, Joint Commission®-accredited facilities report about 85 suicides every year.¹ These sentinel events caused surveyors to place additional emphasis on ligature risks—not only in psychiatric hospitals, but also certain areas within general hospitals, including emergency departments.²

Each observation of a ligature or self-harm risk is documented as a requirement for improvement (RFI), with a 60-day window to achieve compliance.² While TJC sometimes grants time extensions, officials have said that ligature-related RFIs are never appropriate for extension.³

The Joint Commission recommends hospitals reference the *Behavioral Health Design Guide*, formerly the *Design Guide for the Built Environment of Behavioral Health Facilities*. This 150-page resource features equipment recommendations that protect patients and caregivers.²

Sizewise products are featured in the *Design Guide*⁴, and trusted by accredited hospitals nationwide.

References

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3. Joint Commission: CMS requires ligature risk deficiencies corrected within 60 days. (2017, Aug. 15). *ASHE Insider*. Retrieved from www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?recipient_id=3135522806&message_id=14574397&user_id=AHA%5F8&group_id=3798512&jobid=38279763
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