

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS  
FINAL REGULATIONS TEXT  
ENTRY INTO PATIENT ROOMS AND OBSERVATION ROUNDS

California Code of Regulations  
Title 9. Rehabilitative and Developmental Services  
Division 1. Department of Mental Health  
Chapter 16. State Hospital Operations  
Article 3. Safety and Security

Section 4335. Entry into Patient Rooms.

- (a) Patients shall not enter any single bedroom or dormitory bedroom (hereinafter referred to collectively as "room") in which the patient does not reside except under the conditions of subdivision (b) of this section. Patients cannot enter or remain in any room in which the patient does not reside between 22:45 and 07:00.
- (b) Patients may be permitted to enter the room of other patients to visit under the following conditions:
  - (1) No patient residing in the room has objected to the visit.
  - (2) The patients reside in the same unit.
- (c) If any patient residing in the room has objected to the visit or staff reasonably believes there may be a health, safety, or security concern to any patients, staff, or the public, staff shall escort the visiting patient out of the room or contact hospital police for assistance escorting the visiting patient out of the room, if necessary.
- (d) Except in emergency situations, staff will either knock on the door or announce their presence before entering a patient's room.
  - (1) Emergency situations are any situations that can negatively impact the therapeutic environment or safety of the patients or staff.

Note Authority cited: Sections 4005.1, 4011 and 4101, Welfare and Institutions Code.  
Reference: Sections 4027 and 4312, Welfare and Institutions Code.

Section 4340. Observation Rounds.

- (a) Observation rounds are when staff inspect, visualize, or otherwise monitor any area of the hospital.
- (b) Staff shall conduct observation rounds of all areas that are occupied by patients, or may be occupied by patients, at least once every two hours except under emergency situations as that term is defined in section 4335(d)(1).
- (c) During observation rounds, staff will identify each patient. If the patient is sleeping, staff will check the patient to observe movement and ascertain that the patient is breathing.
  - (1) Additional illumination, such as a flashlight, may be used when necessary and to the extent necessary for proper visualization of the patient to ascertain movement and that the patient is breathing.
- (d) Staff performing observation rounds shall be accompanied by a second staff member when entering patient rooms as that term is defined in section 4335(a).

Note Authority cited: Sections 4005.1, 4011 and 4101, Welfare and Institutions Code.  
Reference: Sections 4027 and 4312, Welfare and Institutions Code.