Constant Observation

This handout explains the use of constant observation and how it keeps you safe.

What is Constant Observation?
Your healthcare team feels that for your safety you should be watched closely. A member of the nursing team will help keep you safe during this time.

There are 3 different types of Constant Observation:
- Video Monitoring
- Patient Safety Observers
- Patient Safety Attendants

What is Video Monitoring?
Video Monitoring is a system with a video camera and 2-way speaker system. This allows a trained nursing assistant to watch you more closely and speak with you to help keep you safe. Please see Health Facts for You #7768 for more information.

What is a Patient Safety Observer?
The Patient Safety Observer (PSO) is part of the nursing team, but is not a nursing assistant. The PSO works closely with the nursing staff and will share any concerns or needs with the nurse right away. The PSO does not take the place of nursing care, but is used as an extra step to keep patients safe. A nursing assistant will come in to assist in daily cares, such as bathing, dressing, toileting, eating.

What is a Patient Safety Attendant?
A Patient Safety Attendant (PSA) is a nursing assistant that will sit in your room to keep you safe. S/he will also perform your daily cares, such as bathing, dressing, toileting and eating.

Will I have privacy with Constant Observation?
For safety reasons, a patient with Constant Observation cannot be left alone. Even if visitors are in the room, we must remain close to the patient. The health care team will make sure patients have privacy and comfort for self-cares.

How long will I be monitored?
Your healthcare team will decide when it is safe to stop using constant observation.