Double the Outcomes: Employing Sensory Based Approaches to Improve the Quality of Care and Reduce the Use of Restraints on Inpatient Behavioral Health Units

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Lehigh Valley Health Network is the largest community hospital in PA, has achieved Magnet in PA and has 988 acute care beds on 3 campuses. LHVN is the largest level 1 Trauma Center in PA, has over 9,000 employees.

With an average length of stay of 5 days we are organized as a crisis intervention model and provide care across a continuum of services.

The project provided staff with new tools to engage patients in positive ways to decrease explosive behaviors as well as educated staff about the danger of re-traumatizing patients using restraints/ seclusion. The project team concluded that changing culture on the unit and staff attitude towards aggressive behaviors requires much patience, creativity and reinforcement.

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