

As part of our ongoing efforts to reduce workplace violence and improve staff safety, the Workplace Violence Prevention Committee has launched the **Purple Dot Initiative**.

The Purple Dot Initiative introduces a new visual alert process on inpatient medical-surgical and critical care units, including **Wheeler 4, Wheeler 5, North 6, and the Critical Care Unit (CCU)**. A purple dot sign placed outside a patient's room alerts staff that the patient may be at risk for agitation or violent behavior. The sign helps employees across all departments take appropriate precautions and coordinate safe interactions with the patient. Review the [Inpatient "Purple Dot" Violence Prevention Guideline](#) document for more detail.

Purple Dot Quick Facts

- The purple dot sign may be placed outside a patient's room by nursing staff if a patient:
 - Is agitated
 - Has displayed violent behavior
 - Has a history of agitation or violence
- The sign:
 - Does not require a provider order
 - Is not documented in the medical record
- The sign can be removed if the patient's behavior improves or the risk is no longer present.

Examples:

- A patient experiencing delirium becomes medically stable and no longer exhibits agitation.
- A patient withdrawing from alcohol or other substances stabilizes after detoxification and no longer presents a safety concern.

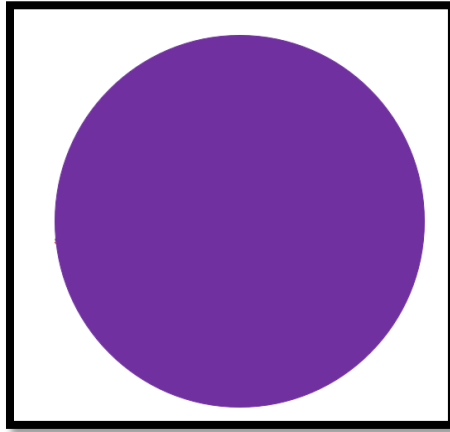
What Should Staff Do When They See a Purple Dot?

Staff who see a purple dot sign should check in with the unit team to understand the safety plan before interacting with the patient.

Depending on the situation, the plan may include:

- Unit staff accompany team members from other departments when entering the room.
- Deliver meal trays to the nursing station rather than entering the room.
- Clarifying that it is safe to enter the room because the patient's agitation occurred during a different shift or under specific circumstances.

The goal of the Purple Dot Initiative is to improve communication, increase situational awareness, and help employees make informed decisions that support the safety of both staff and patients.



[Frequently Asked Question](#)

[Family, Friend, and Visitor Handout](#)

[Additional Information](#)

If you have questions, please contact **Trish Martin, Director of Patient Safety**, at pmartin@emersonhosp.org.