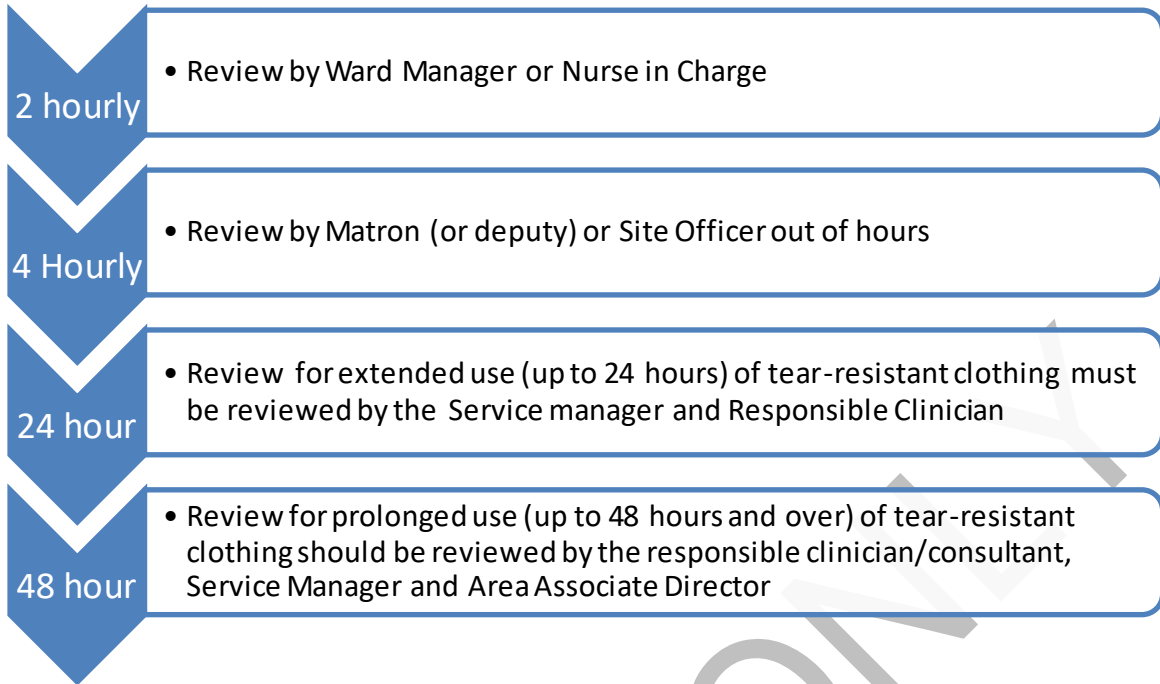


Guidance for use of Special tear-resistant clothing

Individuals must never be deprived of appropriate clothing with the intention of restricting their freedom of movement; neither should they be deprived of other aids necessary for their daily living (COP 26.161). However there are circumstances where it will be appropriate and necessary to use restrictive clothing in order to prevent risks to self-i.e. using special tear-resistant clothing. The guidance for the use of special tear-resistant clothing within EPUT services is provided below.

- **The use of special tear-resistant clothing is a restrictive intervention and should only be used for immediate management of self-harm**
- To ensure privacy and dignity special tear-resistant clothing must only be used when a patient is either in Seclusion or being nursed in Long Term Segregation.
- Use of special tear-resistant clothing must be agreed by the multi-disciplinary team including the responsible clinician and documented in both the care plan and risk assessment. The care plan should outline the rationale for use, including the criteria for its use (under what circumstances) and criteria for discontinuation. The care plan also must detail less restrictive alternative strategies e.g. positive behaviour support plans, which should be employed prior to considering the use of special tear-resistant clothing.
- Where the use of special tear-resistant clothing is implemented, a rationale for this must be recorded in the clinical records and implementation time recorded on Appendix 1b / 2b of the Seclusion & Long Term Segregation policy. The patient must be informed of reasons why the clothing is being used and under what circumstances it will be discontinued.
- The ward manager or nurse in charge and Responsible Clinician will make the decision to terminate the use of specialist tear-resistant clothing and the return of normal clothing. Rationale for termination must be recorded in the clinical notes and time of termination recorded on Appendix 1b / 2b of the Use of Seclusion & Long Term Segregation policy
- The responsible clinician (or deputy), Ward Manager and Service manager must be informed when the use of special tear-resistant clothing is implemented and discontinued.
- The use of special tear-resistant clothing must be monitored and reviewed regularly as below. All reviews must be recorded in the clinical notes and make reference to the continued level of risk. If the review concludes that the use of special tear-resistant clothing is still required to manage risk, details must be included as to why less restrictive alternative strategies are not appropriate to manage the risk.

CLGP41 – Seclusion & Long Term Segregation Procedure – Appendix 3c



- Where the use of special tear-resistant clothing is being considered for an informal patient, consideration must be given to whether the patient requires an assessment under the Mental Health Act 1983.