

BEST PRACTICE CATALOG

Project Title: **MEALTIME VIOLENCE REDUCTION**

Function Category: PATIENT-FOCUSED ORGANIZATION STRUCTURES

Subcategory: **Management of the Environment**

Heading: **Measuring Outcomes**

Key Word(s): **Care of Patients, Environment of Care**

Contact Person: **Colleen Love, R.N., Ph.D.**

Telephone Number: **(805) 468-2000**

Hospital: **Atascadero State Hospital**

Purpose: Reduction of the number and severity of violent episodes in the patient dining rooms.

Brief Description: A Quality Action Team was established and reviewed all aspects of patient activity surrounding the mealtime hours. Based on collected data, including a patient survey, mealtime procedures were altered. Metal silverware was replaced with plastic ware, therapeutic music was selected for the dining room, and alternative mealtime activities were provided for those patients who did not want to eat or who wanted to leave the dining rooms early.

Selection Basis/Criteria: A 47% reduction in violent episodes was achieved and sustained. This project won the JCAHO Codman Performance Improvement Award in October of 1998.

The following items are available regarding this Best Practice:

Photographs Video Tape Drawings Manual

Other : _____

DATE SUBMITTED: **September 17, 1998**

II. C. 3. 001