Despite increased efforts to identify suicide risk among hospital patients, Joint Commission®-accredited facilities report about 85 suicides every year.¹ These sentinel events caused surveyors to place additional emphasis on ligature risks—not only in psychiatric hospitals, but also certain areas within general hospitals, including emergency departments.²

Each observation of a ligature or self-harm risk is documented as a requirement for improvement (RFI), with a 60-day window to achieve compliance.² While TJC sometimes grants time extensions, officials have said that ligature-related RFIs are never appropriate for extension.³

The Joint Commission recommends hospitals reference the Behavioral Health Design Guide, formerly the Design Guide for the Built Environment of Behavioral Health Facilities. This 150-page resource features equipment recommendations that protect patients and caregivers.²

Sizewise products are featured in the Design Guide⁴, and trusted by accredited hospitals nationwide.

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**References**


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**Ligature-resistant Behavioral Health Products**

**Behavioral Health Bed™**
- Fully electric, ligature-resistant low bed
- Standard and bariatric sizes

**Behavioral Health Bed™ – Platform**
- Durable, easy-to-clean platform bed
- Standard and low-profile head/footboards available

**Behavioral Health Mattress™**
- Pressure redistribution with RF-welded seams for safety
- Full-length bolsters provide additional support and safety

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