

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Page 1 of 4

Subject: NEWBORN ABANDONMENT - RECEIPT OF NEWBORN INFANTS
WHICH A PERSON WANTS TO SURRENDER TO OUR CARE

Policy No.: B801

Supersedes: April 9, 2019

Review Date: May 8, 2023

Origin Date: January 19, 2001

Revision Date:

POLICY:

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center will comply with California Senate Bill 1368, Newborn Abandonment, and will accept for admission or facilitate appropriate treatment for infants, 72 hours old or younger, brought to our Medical Center by persons wishing to surrender the child to our care.

California Senate Bill 1368, Newborn Abandonment, allows a parent or person with legal custody to take a newborn, under 72 hours old, to a hospital, and voluntarily surrender the infant to the hospital. The hospital is expected to accept temporary custody of the child. The person(s) surrendering the newborn are exempt from criminal liability for surrendering the child.

PROCEDURE:

A person comes to our facility and notifies an employee that they wish to surrender their newborn infant to our care

Business Hours (Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

1. The person who first becomes aware that someone wishes to surrender a newborn to our facility is to immediately call the Pediatric Department at Extension 57847, and the Social Work Department at Extension 57867.
2. The Department of Pediatrics will contact an available pediatrician who will respond to the location.
3. The Social Work Department will contact an available Social Worker who will respond to the location.

PEDIATRICIAN

1. The Pediatrician will verify that the person wishes to surrender the newborn to our care. A Rancho MRN will be obtained for the newborn through the normal admission process, and an Alias name will be established for use on all medical records and in ORCHID. This alias will be established through the current name change process (this will prevent persons from obtaining the newborn's real name, unless they are authorized to do so).
2. An ID Band will be placed on the infant, which contains the Rancho MRN and the alias name.
3. The Rancho MRN and alias name will be provided to the person surrendering the newborn and placed on the Newborn Family Medical History Questionnaire.

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Approved By:

Subject: NEWBORN ABANDONMENT - RECEIPT OF NEWBORN INFANTS
WHICH A PERSON WANTS TO SURRENDER TO OUR CARE

Policy No.: B801

4. The Pediatrician will request that the person surrendering the newborn provide identification, but identification is not required in order for a person to surrender the infant.
5. The Pediatrician will provide to, and request that the person surrendering the newborn complete the attached Newborn Family Medical History Questionnaire (see attached).
6. The person surrendering the newborn may complete the questionnaire, decline to complete the questionnaire, or complete the questionnaire and return it to us at a later date.
7. The Pediatrician will examine the newborn and make a decision to admit to the Pediatric Constant Care Room or to arrange transport to another facility. This may require calling Paramedics or transfer through MAC (Medical Alert Center).
8. If it is decided that the Paramedics should be called, the Pediatrician will decide if the newborn should be kept in the Clinic or be placed on Unit JPI 1 South or in 101 Special Care Unit while waiting for assessment by the Paramedics.

SOCIAL WORKER

1. Notify the Area Administrator and the Risk Manager as soon as possible.
2. Complete a Safety Intelligence Report (SI).
3. The State Department of Health Services will be notified (as an Unusual Occurrence Report) by either Risk Management or the Area Administrator.
4. The Social Worker, during normal business hours will contact Children's Protective Services through the Hot Line (1-800-540-4000), to inform them that we have received a newborn, who has been surrendered to our care.

Evenings, Nights, Weekends, and Holidays:

1. The person who first becomes aware that someone wishes to surrender a newborn to our facility is to call Nursing Administrative Supervisor, through the Telephone Operator.

NURSING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR

1. The Nursing Administrative Supervisor will respond to the location and verify that the person wishes to surrender the newborn to our facility.
2. If the person does wish to surrender the newborn, the Nursing Administrative Supervisor will contact the On-Call Physician immediately.

ON-CALL PHYSICIAN

1. The On-Call Physician will respond to the location and will verify that the person wishes to surrender the newborn to our care.

Subject: NEWBORN ABANDONMENT - RECEIPT OF NEWBORN INFANTS
WHICH A PERSON WANTS TO SURRENDER TO OUR CARE

Policy No.: B801

2. The physician will request that the person surrendering the newborn provide identification, but identification is not required in order for a person to surrender the infant.

NURSING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR

1. A Rancho MRN will be obtained for the newborn through the normal admission process, and an Alias name will be established for use on all medical records and in ORCHID. This alias will be established through the current name change process (this will prevent persons from obtaining the newborn's real name, unless they are authorized to do so).
2. An ID Band will be placed on the infant, which contains the Rancho # and the alias name.
3. This Rancho MRN and alias name will be provided to the person surrendering the newborn and placed on The Newborn Family Medical History Questionnaire.
4. The Nursing Administrative Supervisor will provide to, and request that the person surrendering the newborn complete the attached Newborn Family Medical History Questionnaire (see attached).
5. The person surrendering the newborn may complete the questionnaire, decline to complete the questionnaire, or complete the questionnaire and return it to us at a later date.

ON-CALL PHYSICIAN

1. The On-Call Physician will examine the newborn and make a decision as to whether the patient should be admitted to Pediatrics, ICU or whether the newborn requires transport to another facility. This may require calling Paramedics or transfer through MAC (Medical Alert Center).
2. The On-Call Physician will contact the On-Call Pediatrician as appropriate.
3. If the On-Call Physician chooses to admit the newborn, they will contact the Pediatric Department or On-Call Pediatrician the next morning, and a Pediatrician will assume responsibility for further care of the newborn.

NURSING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR

1. The Nursing Administrative Supervisor will contact the Administrator On Duty as soon as possible, and the Administrator on Duty will notify the CEO and COO.
2. A Safety Intelligence Report (SI) will be completed.
3. The Nursing Administrative Supervisor will contact Children's Protective Services through the Hot Line (1-800-540-4000), to inform them that we have received a newborn, who has been surrendered to our care.
4. The AOD or the Risk Manager will contact the Social Work Department on the next business day.
5. The State Department of Health Services will be notified by the Risk Manager or Area Administrator the next business day (as an Unusual Occurrence Report).

Subject: NEWBORN ABANDONMENT - RECEIPT OF NEWBORN INFANTS
WHICH A PERSON WANTS TO SURRENDER TO OUR CARE

Policy No.: B801

If the person surrendering the newborn returns and requests that we return the newborn to them:

1. The Attending Physician and Social Work Department (regular business hours) or On-Call Social Worker (Evenings, Nights, Weekends, or Holidays) will immediately be called.
2. They, if the newborn is stable, will collaboratively decide if it is appropriate to release the newborn back to the surrendering person.

Note: They must also have the proper ID (name & MRN) which was given to the newborn on admission.

Note: If it is suspected that the newborn is at risk for abuse or neglect, the child should not be released.

3. Prior to returning the infant to the individual, they will contact Children's Protective Services through the Hotline, and document the discussion and decision made.

Note: The infant will not be released until we have contacted Children's Protective Services and have obtained their authorization to release the infant. This will be documented in the infant's medical record.

Immunity From Liability

No person or entity [representing Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center or the County of Los Angeles] who accepts a surrendered newborn will be subject to civil, criminal or administrative liability for accepting and caring for a child in the good faith belief that action is required or authorized by this law. This includes situations where the child may actually be older than 72 hours, or where the surrendering person did not have lawful physical custody of the infant.

REFERENCE:

California Senate Bill 1368