

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: CODE PINK/CODE PURPLE - INFANT/CHILD ABDUCTION POLICY NO. 447A

PURPOSE:

To provide guidance on how to respond during an infant or child abduction situation.

POLICY:

In the event of an infant (Code Pink) or child (Code Purple) abduction, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center staff will follow procedural guidelines to respond and locate the abducted infant/child.

DEFINITIONS:

Code Pink: This code will be activated when an infant up to 12 months old is abducted.

Code Purple: This code will be activated when a child over 12 months up to 17 years old is abducted.

PROCEDURE:

- A. In the event of a suspected or known infant/child abduction, the following actions shall be taken:
 1. The person discovering the abduction or missing infant/child shall immediately notify the Charge Nurse or Nurse in Charge *with the estimated age of the infant/child.*
 2. If the area is so equipped, the Code Pink alarm will be activated (6 East, 7 East & 7 West).
 3. If the area and the infant are equipped with TotGuard (6 East, 7 East & 7 West) then the six (6) main hospital elevators will cease to work. (See Infant Security System in Nursing Procedure Manual).
 4. The Charge Nurse or Nurse in Charge will immediately notify the:
 - a. Hospital Operator at Ext. 111 and inform Operator of the area of occurrence and request Operator to activate:
 “Code Pink” or “Code Purple” & *age of infant or child; For a Code Purple, a description of the child (e.g., type of clothing, hair color, race/ethnicity should also be provided to the Operator).*
 (Example: Code Pink 0 = Infant Code Purple 3 = 3 years Code Purple 10 = 10 years)
 - b. L.A. County Sheriff’s Dispatch at Ext. 3311;
 - c. Nurse Manager and/or House Supervisor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/01/98

SUPERSEDES: Code Pink – Infant/Child Abduction

REVISED: 2/02, 9/04, 6/10, 5/15, 6/18, 7/18

REVIEWED: 2/02, 9/04, 1/08, 6/10, 4/15, 6/18, 7/18

REVIEWED COMMITTEE: Environment of Care

APPROVED BY: _____

Kim McKenzie, RN, MSN, CPHQ
Chief Executive Officer

Anish Mahajan, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Patricia Soltero Sanchez, RN, BSN, MAOM
Chief Nursing Officer

Signature(s) on File.

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: CODE PINK/CODE PURPLE - INFANT/CHILD ABDUCTION

POLICY NO. 447A

5. In the event the Charge Nurse or Nurse in Charge is not on the unit, the person discovering the abduction or missing infant/child shall immediately notify the individuals identified above.

B. Simultaneously, the following shall occur:

1. The hospital Operator shall initiate the “Code Pink” or “Code Purple” announcement using the hospital overhead paging system and the two-way disaster radio on channel 5. The Operator shall announce three (3) times:
2. “Code Pink (or Code Purple) & *age of infant/child*, & (unit of occurrence).” If it is a Code Purple, the Operator also will announce the general description of the child. The Operator shall make the announcement using the overhead paging system every five (5) minutes, three (3) times, then every ten (**10**) minutes until the Code Pink/Purple is no longer in effect.

After receiving notification that an infant/child abduction has occurred, the L.A. County Sheriff’s Dispatch shall immediately:

- a. Obtain as much information as possible *from the reporting party* (e.g., location, description of the abducted *infant/child* and suspect’s information).
 - b. Notify the on-duty Watch Commander. ***Overall incident control will be by the senior ranking law enforcement official with jurisdiction.***
 - c. Dispatch units immediately per L.A. County Sheriff operations policy.
3. Nursing staff on the affected unit will immediately:
 - a. Perform a visual check of nursing unit and do a count of all *patients*.
 - b. Secure the unit. Only hospital employees with identification badges or law enforcement personnel with identification shall enter or exit the area until allowed to leave by law enforcement or L.A. County Sheriff.
 - c. Secure the records/charts of the ***suspected infant/child abducted. (If newborn abduction, the records of the postpartum mother will also be secured).***
The Administrator on Duty or House Supervisor shall assume role of Incident Commander, establishing a unified command with LASD and report with a two-way radio to the LASD station per “Code Pink/Purple Staff Containment Areas – Incident Commander Worksheet” (**Attachment 2**). Utilize this worksheet to manage the Code Pink/Purple staff containment area personnel and use page 2, the “Code Pink/Purple Lockdown and Search Checklist” (**Attachment 3**) to manage units, clinics and ancillary services.

Code Pink Staff Containment Area Personnel shall:

- a. Immediately report to their assigned containment area with their two-way radio per “Code Pink/Purple Staff Containment Instructions” (**Attachments 4a-i**)

Inpatient Units, Ambulatory Services & Pathology Department shall:

- a. Immediately implement lockdown and search procedures while completing the “Code Pink/Purple Unit Lockdown & Search for ALL Areas” form (**Attachment 5**).

4. All hospital employees shall:

- a. Assist in securing the Medical Center exits per “Traffic Control, Code Pink/Code Purple” table (**Attachment 1**)
 - b. Report to the L.A. County Sheriff by calling Ext. 3311:
 - ***Any suspicious persons***
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HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: CODE PINK/CODE PURPLE - INFANT/CHILD ABDUCTION

POLICY NO. 447A

- *Any suspicious bundles or bags that could conceal abducted infant*
 - *Any escorted children being held (hands or carried) who appear upset/disturbed or angry.*
- c. Instruct visitors/patients leaving the hospital to exit through the Outpatient Pharmacy/Gift Shop lobby exit.
 - d. ***Refer all media requests to Hospital Administration.***
5. If the abduction is observed, it is important to obtain a description of the ***abducted infant/child*** and ***abductor***, noting the following ***to L.A. County Sheriff (Ext. 3311)***:
- a. Infant/Child:
 - i. Sex and race, if known
 - ii. Skin, hair color
 - iii. Carrier device used for transporting infant/child; ***if any***
 - b. Abductor:
 - i. Sex and race
 - ii. Approximate height/weight
 - iii. Hair color
 - iv. Clothing
 - v. Distinguishing characteristics such as eye glasses, facial hair, tattoos, jewelry, etc.
- C. Once the abduction has been confirmed the following shall occur:
1. The Nurse Manager or House Supervisor will notify the following:
 - a. Nursing Director or designee on call
 - b. Hospital Administrator on Duty (AOD)
 - c. Resident
 - d. Clinical Social Work staff
 - e. Risk Management
 2. The Resident will notify the Attending MD.
 3. The Nurse Manager/House Supervisor and Attending MD will notify the parents ***of the abducted infant/child*** once the abduction has been confirmed.
 4. The Nurse Manager/House Supervisor will brief all staff on the unit.
 5. The postpartum mother of an abducted infant will be transferred to a private room to ensure privacy.
 6. If the abduction occurs on 7W Ward, the Charge Nurse of the unit shall explain the situation to ***the other postpartum*** mothers ***on the ward*** while the mother and her infant are together.
 7. If the abducted infant is less than one (1) week of age, the Pediatric Resident shall notify the Blood Bank and request a hold on the infant's cord blood.
 8. Hospital Administration will initiate "NO Information (NI)" status for the abducted patient.
 9. L.A. County Sheriffs will notify outside law enforcement agencies per ***L.A. County Sheriff Policy #117***.

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: CODE PINK/CODE PURPLE - INFANT/CHILD ABDUCTION

POLICY NO. 447A

- D. All entrances/exits will be monitored according to the Traffic Control schedule (**Attachment 1**). *L.A. County Sheriff and Contract Security will screen persons leaving the facility and/or carrying packages. In addition*, assigned monitors should use the following guidelines:
1. If a medical emergency should arise in your area, use discretion as to whether a person should have access to the area.
 2. If the individuals are persistent about entering or leaving your area or become combative, back down and let them have their way. If this does not work, immediately remove yourself from harm's way and report the situation to L.A. County Sheriff (Ext. 3311).
 3. The following scripts can be used by individuals responsible for specific posts during a Code Pink or Code Purple:
 - a. "Code Pink/Purple is now in effect for this facility. This area is closed to public access".
 - b. "You can exit by the Outpatient Pharmacy/Gift Shop lobby area" (give *directions* to exit location).
 - c. "Code Pink/Purple for this facility indicates a possible *infant*/child abduction. It is very important that we keep this area closed to public access".
 - d. "This area will be reopened as soon as possible. Please be considerate of our current emergency situation. Thank you for your cooperation".
 - e. "Due to our current emergency situation, this area is limited to employees with hospital identification" (direct the person to the nearest exit or entrance).
- E. When the Code Pink/Purple is no longer in effect, the L.A. County Sheriff's Office shall notify the hospital Operator, who will then announce over the overhead paging system that the Code Pink/Purple is no longer in effect. The announcement shall be made three (3) times sequentially. Only the Sheriff has authority to clear a Code Pink/Purple.

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: CODE PINK/CODE PURPLE - INFANT/CHILD ABDUCTION

POLICY NO. 447A

ATTACHMENT 1

Traffic Control, Code Pink and Code Purple

Entrance/Exit	Who Will Monitor	Comments
BASEMENT		
PCDC North	Day: Module A Staff Night: N/A, area locked	Fire door; entrance not available.
Lobby	Environmental Services	Post is at junction of lobby and south hallway
FIRST FLOOR		
Clinic A	0600-1930: Contract Security 1930-0600: N/A, locked	
Pediatric Clinic	0800-1600: Pediatric Clinic Staff 1600-1930: Environmental Services 1900-0800: N/A, clinic area locked	Exit door only, entrance not available.
Outpatient Pharmacy Lobby	Contract Security	All exiting traffic diverted through north exit.
Assembly Room	Medical Records	Post is at the junction of hallway into Assembly Room and main hallway (across from 1-M-9)
1-L-1	Contract Security	Fire door, entrance not available
Doctor's Cafeteria	Day: Morrison's Staff Night: N/A, area locked	Cafeteria closed at night. No coverage necessary when closed.
Employee Cafeteria East	Contract Security	
Employee Cafeteria West	M-F 0600-1900: Contract Security M-F 1900-0600: Environmental Services Fri 1900 - Mon 0600: Environmental Services	Environmental Services to monitor area until relieved by Contract Security
Emergency Walk-In (SE Main Entrance)	Contract Security	All entering traffic diverted through this entrance.
PCDC North	Day: Contract Security Night: N/A, locked	Locked after 1800
All other perimeter exits will be monitored by L.A. County Sheriffs (per L.A. County Sheriffs Policy #117).		