



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

**SUBJECT: PEDIATRIC SAFETY AND SECURITY
ABDUCTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

**Policy No.: P122
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to inform and educate interprofessional workforce on procedures to follow in the event of a missing and/or suspected infant or child abduction from the facility by unauthorized individuals.

POLICY:

In the event of a missing or abducted Infant/child CODE PINK/PURPLE procedures will be implemented by all workforce members.

PREVENTION:

1. Each infant and child will have an identification band in place at all times. Nursing will verify the presence of an identification band at each shift.
2. For Pediatric patients 13 years old and below, the following will be completed by Nursing staff on admission.
 - a. Take a picture of the patient and attach in the front inside cover of the patient's hardback chart.
 - b. Load the photograph and enter patient information into the patient monitoring system (Wanderguard)
 - c. Apply the patient monitoring bracelet to the patient.

Key Point: If the patient refuses to wear the bracelet, the patient's parents or Legal guardian will be contacted such that they can attempt to obtain compliance from patient

- d. Patient refusal/ non - compliance will be documented in the medical record.
3. Admit to designated pediatric area in the unit.

Key Point: The following rooms in JPI I North are primarily designated for pediatric patients. PN1002, PN1004, PN1008, PN1010, PN1014, PN1016. Other rooms in the unit may be used as needed.

4. Inform the patient and/or family/guardian reason for taking a picture (for patient safety) and the policy regarding patients leaving the unit.

Key Point: Should the patient be absent without authorization from the unit, the picture will be used as a method of visual identification of the patient during the search process.

5. The Patient Monitoring System (Wanderguard) will be activated for all children 13 years of age and younger. If the patient monitoring device is not available, a care companion will be provided for safety. Telesitter will be utilized as deemed appropriate by clinical team.
6. Infants and Children are not allowed to be taken from the nursing unit except by a parent, legal guardian, or authorized workforce member. Friends identifiable to the Registered Nurse responsible for the patient's care may only take the infant or child from the unit upon written orders of the physician, upon written authorization of the parent.
7. Infants and children will be released from the unit for therapeutic activities only in the care of designated workforce members. Workforce members must remain with patient at all times when not on unit.
8. Patients going home on a pass or being discharged may be released, upon a written physician's order, in the care of a parent, legal guardian, or other adult with written authorization of the parent or legal guardian. Appropriate picture identification must be provided.
9. All Infant/child pediatric patients must be escorted by authorized workforce member or designated adult at all times.
10. Visitors to the Pediatric Unit will be issued a visitor sticker at the main Jacquilyn Perry Institute (JPI) Security Substation. Visitors presenting to the unit without a sticker will not be permitted in the unit
11. The northwest and northeast exit door to JPI I North will only be used for emergency purposes.

Key Point: These doors will alarm should someone attempt to use it to enter or exit the unit.

RESPONSE TO MISSING PATIENT OR SUSPECTED ABDUCTION:

A. UNIT STAFF

As soon as staff realizes that an infant/child is missing, the following steps will be done:

1. Complete a rapid check of the unit and proximal area.
Key Point: Use the yellow "Checked ✓" stickers, kept in the labeled box at the Care Givers Station, to place on the door of each room to indicate which rooms in the unit have already been checked for the missing/abducted infant/child.
2. Call the operator at extension 544 and request that Code PINK or Code PURPLE be announced over the public paging system and provide the following information:
 - a. Unit/Location
 - b. Patient age, gender and general description.
Key Point: Code Pink is activated for Infants (0-11 months old).
Code Purple is activated for missing Child (1-17 years old).
3. Notify the Medical Center's Sheriff Department Dispatcher at Ext 57042 and JPI Security. Provide complete description of any suspicious individuals.
4. Notify Nurse Manager or Designee
5. Notify Risk Management and complete an event notification.
6. Complete documentation of the incident in the electronic health record.

B. NURSE MANAGER/NURSING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR (ANS) or DESIGNEE

1. Notify the Attending Physician, Area Administrator, Social Worker and will brief all workforce members on the unit.
2. Contact the parent/guardian and inform that infant/child is missing/abducted. Obtain any information which they may have as to the infant/child's location.
3. Ensure that nothing at the scene of where the suspected abduction occurred is moved/removed in order to preserve the subsequent collection of forensic evidence by law enforcement officials.
Key Point: Workforce members will relinquish this duty to County Sheriff upon their arrival.
4. Provide a private location/room for the parents/guardian if they are present or when they arrive.
Key Point: A Nurse and Social Worker will remain with the parents/guardian at all times.
5. Contact the Chaplain and other support services as indicated.

C. SHERIFF/SECURITY

1. Security personnel will secure all hospital entrances/exits and monitor individuals exiting pending arrival of Medical Center Sheriff.
2. An immediate search of the patient unit and the last place the infant/child was seen will be conducted.

Key Point: The picture of the infant/child, placed on the inside cover of the patient's hard back chart, and the picture in the patient monitoring system will be used to identify the patient during the search process.

3. Immediately establish a command post and coordinate a floor by floor search of the building, interior and exterior.
4. Assume control of the location.
5. Question suspicious individuals.
6. Contact the Downey/South Gate Police Department and other appropriate proximal Police Departments and the Sheriff Department.
7. Contact the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) office.
8. Contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) at 1-800-THE- LOST to report any suspected abduction.
9. Notify area hospitals and outpatient clinics providing postpartum/pediatric care about the incident.

D. HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION

1. Notify Department of Health Services (DHS) Executive Office. Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Patient Support Services.
2. Ensure that all information communicated about the abduction is approved by Rancho's Patient Support Services and Law Enforcement authorities.

Key Point: Only Hospital Administration, Public Information Officer or Designee as authorized to release information to the media.

E. SOCIAL WORKER

1. Notify Department of Children and Family Services only if abduction involve parents, primary care givers and /or significant others.

REFERENCES:

Administrative Policy and Procedure A423 Infant and Pediatric Security, and Abduction Prevention and Response.

Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals

The Joint Commission Environment of Care

Administrative Policy and Procedure B707 Patient Elopement

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