

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 83
VERSION: 5**

SUBJECT/TITLE: INFANT ABDUCTION POLICY (CODE PINK)

POLICY: To ensure timely and appropriate notification and actions of all Olive View – UCLA Medical Center (OVMC) personnel and outside agencies when an infant has been abducted, to expedite locating and reuniting the infant with the family.

PURPOSE: To identify a person attempting to abduct an infant from OVMC. To ensure all hospital personnel and outside agencies are notified appropriately, with the goal being to locate and reunite the infant with the family as quickly as possible.

DEPARTMENTS: All

DEFINITIONS: **Infant Abduction:** (Birth to 12 months of age) the unlawful seizure of an infant, whose health care and safety has been entrusted to the personnel of Olive View – UCLA Medical Center.

My Child Infant Protection System: An electronic security system, which, in conjunction with staff diligence, creates a secure perimeter to deter child/adolescent abductions.

PROCEDURE: The typical infant abductor is a female between 15 and 44 years old, often overweight and suffering from low self-esteem. Frequently, she has lost a baby or is incapable of having one. She would be:

- Carrying an infant
- Carrying a bag, large enough to hold an infant
- Covering the infant with her coat or a baby blanket
- May be in a nurse’s uniform or scrubs carrying an infant (NOTE: OVMC staff **NEVER** carry an infant; infants are always transported in an open crib)
- May have visited the ward or nursery and asked detailed questions about hospital procedures and the floor layout
- Frequently uses the fire exit stairwell to escape
- Often becomes familiar with health care personnel and even the victim’s parents/family

If there is suspicion of an infant abduction, the following actions will occur simultaneously:

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I. RESPONDING TO A SUSPECTED ABDUCTION

- A. If a workforce member suspects an infant abduction within Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, he/she will immediately call x111 and inform the Operator of a “Code Pink” and the location. The Operator will immediately notify Sheriff Dispatch and announce overhead “Code Pink” and the location three (3) times.

Sheriff will notify outside law enforcement of the abduction.

The Operator will also notify Hospital Administration and the Administrative Nursing Office.

- B. When Code Pink is announced, the following departments are to respond to their assigned exits for proper coverage: Security/Sheriff, Department of Emergency Medicine, Dietary, Information Systems, Medical Records, Nuclear Medicine, Nursing, Nursing Administration/Bed Control, Pathology and Psychiatric Emergency Room.

See Attached I “Traffic Control and Exit Coverage” for specific assignments.

- C. All non-identified departments are to assist the identified departments by responding to the nearest exit doors, stairwell doors, and elevator doors in their area. (Refer to General Staff Procedure)

II. AFFECTED UNIT RESPONSE PROCEDURES

- A. If an abduction occurs on your unit, immediately and simultaneously:
1. **CALL and CONTAIN** by dialing x111, and immediately respond to all exits and stairwells.
 2. **SEARCH** the unit and the area indicated on the MyChild monitor. Account for each infant or child on your unit.
 3. **DENY** entry. Do not allow visitors in or out of the unit.

Note: If there is a failure within the security system, immediately report the problem to BioMed at x74900. After hours, contact the Nurse Manager.

- B. If the abduction occurs in Inpatient Obstetrics unit, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), or Pediatric unit, a designated staff member will click the “LOCATOR” icon on the My Child Infant Protection System to determine location of all tagged children and adolescents.
- C. Once the abduction has been confirmed, the Nurse Manager of the unit and

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the attending physician will notify the parents.

- D. The nurse assigned to the mother and infant will always continue to accompany the parents. The parents will be moved to a private room off the OB floor. The infant's belongings should be left as is, since they are part of the crime scene and must be protected throughout the investigation.
- E. The mother and infant's records/charts will be secured.
- F. The nursing staff on the affected unit will be told of the occurrence. All staff on duty where the abduction occurred will remain in the unit until the authorities complete proper questioning.
- G. Immediately search the entire unit and perform a head count on all infants. NO unauthorized person will be permitted to enter the affected ward during a Code Pink.
- H. If a suspicious person is seen during a Code Pink and the situation appears to be non-threatening, stop, attempt to delay the individual and explain that an infant is missing and ask permission to see an infant (if they are carrying one) or to check in their bag or if they'll open their coat. Employees shall not take any action that jeopardizes the safety and/or well-being of themselves or others.
- I. If the person refuses or runs, staff should NOT attempt to apprehend them. Observe and note their physical description: clothing worn, any distinguishing characteristics, whether alone or with someone, (if with someone, note all the above information for the other person(s)). Take note of their exit route and how they left the grounds. If possible, note the make and color of the car and get a license plate number and immediately notify Sheriff by calling x73409.
- J. Immediately report any suspicious bundles or bags to Sheriff Dispatch by calling x73409.
- K. Condition permitting, infants will be kept in their mother's room to promote a sense of security.
- L. Staff should refrain from discussing the incident with anyone other than the authorities. Refer all questions by the media or any stranger to the Public Information Officer or Administrative Nursing Office (ANO).
- M. Only Sheriff may clear a "Code Pink". If the infant is found, staff are to immediately notify Sheriff and Sheriff will contact the Operator to clear the Code Pink. Once the "Code Pink" is cleared, all staff are to return to their normal work duties, unless otherwise directed. When the code is cleared, the Hospital Operator will announce "All clear Code Pink" three (3) times.

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N. All information shall be documented in the EHR.

O. A debriefing will occur after the event.

III. GENERAL STAFF PROCEDURE:

- A. The flow of traffic from all exits of the hospital is to be monitored via a systematic fan out, using all available employees. See Attachment I for primary responsibilities for covering exit doors at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center.
- B. ALL personnel are to IMMEDIATELY STOP ALL NON-CRITICAL WORK and cover all interior stairwell doors, elevator areas, and doors that exit the area they are in. Staff who are not in their own area are to go to the nearest exit.
- C. Staff should stop all individuals entering or exiting the area they are monitoring, inform them of the abduction and ask to check any bags, packages, or carts they may have with them. Once checked, the individual may leave the area.
- D. If a suspicious person is seen during a Code Pink, stop the individual and explain that an infant is missing and ask permission to see an infant (if they are carrying one) or to check in their bag or if they'll open their coat. Employees shall not take any action that jeopardizes the safety and/or well-being of themselves or others.
- E. If the person refuses or runs, staff should NOT attempt to apprehend them. Observe and note their physical description: clothing worn, any distinguishing characteristics, whether alone or with someone, (if with someone, note all the able information for the other person(s)). Take note of their exit route and how they left the grounds. If possible, note the make and color of the car and get a license plate number.
- F. Immediately call Sheriff Dispatch at x73409 to report information.
- G. Sheriff will notify outside law enforcement of the abduction.
- H. Immediately report any suspicious bundles or bags to Sheriff Dispatch by calling x73409.
- I. Staff should refrain from discussing this incident with anyone other than the authorities. Refer all questions by media or any stranger to the Administrative Nursing Office.

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- J. Only Sheriff may clear a “Code Pink”. If the child is found, staff are to immediately notify Sheriff and Sheriff will contact the Operator to clear the Code Pink. When Code Pink is cleared, all staff are to return to their normal work duties, unless otherwise directed. The Hospital Operator will announce “All clear Code Pink” three (3) times.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE NURSING OFFICE PROCEDURE:

- A. At the onset of the Code Pink, the Nurse Administrator will contact the Nurse Manager, Clinical Nursing Director, Chief Nursing Officer, Administrator on Duty, and the Risk Manager.
- B. The Nurse Administrator will immediately call the Operator and Admitting Office to initiate a NO Information (NI) status for the patient and complete the Infant/Child/Adolescent Abduction Form (Attachment II).
- C. The Collaborative Administrative group will develop a departmental plan to meet the needs of each situation. This plan will include the following:
 - 1. Informing the other patients/parents.
 - 2. Ensuring additional nursing staff, Sheriff, and Social Services.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COVERAGE DURING CRISIS

- A. Assess needs of the parents of the abducted infant and clarify their specific requests (e.g., visitors, medical care, and assistance with contacting other family members).

Information during the early stages will be on a need-to-know basis only. OVMC Administration, law enforcement, and public relations will determine and handle all public statements and contact with the media.

References: <u>California Code of Regulations</u> , Title 22 70543(b), 70717(g)(h), 70737(d), 70738, and 70743(b) The Joint Commission Environment of Care Standards Nation Center for Missing and Exploited Children. <u>For Healthcare Professional: Guidelines on Prevention of Response to Infant Abduction</u> . Sixth Edition June 2000.	
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