

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

**NUMBER: 201  
VERSION: 3**

**SUBJECT/TITLE: PATIENTS WHO SIGN OUT AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE**

**POLICY:** An adult patient (or emancipated minor) with decision making capacity desiring to leave Olive View-UCLA Medical Center shall not be prevented from doing so, even though the care team members consider it medically unwise. Leaving is prohibited for mental health patients on a legal hold order.

When a person suffering from a communicable disease threatens to leave Olive View-UCLA Medical Center against medical advice, the physician aware of the situation reports the matter to the Public Health Investigators. This action isolates the patient from the rest of the community.

**PURPOSE:** To ensure patients who may wish to leave the hospital against medical advice do so fully informed and with appropriate follow-up arrangements.

**DEPARTMENTS:** All

**DEFINITIONS:**

**PROCEDURE:**

- A. Patients wishing to sign out against medical advice shall:
  - 1. Not be precluded from readmission if medically indicated,
  - 2. Receive discharge medication and transportation (if appropriate),
  - 3. Be made aware of the medical consequences of leaving against medical advice, including the risks involved in leaving, the benefits of continued hospitalization, or any alternatives, such as transfer to another facility or outpatient therapy.
  - 4. Be fully informed in the patient's primary language.
- B. The "Leaving Against Medical Advice" form (OV1989) should be completed to include the information given to the patient (risks, benefits, alternatives, etc.), and signed by the patient and witnessed by a staff member. If the patient refuses to sign, the notation "patient refuses to sign" is to be made at the place for the patient's signature.
- C. Staff member will submit a report in the Event Reporting system.

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**Policy Number: 201**

**Page Number: 2**

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| References: Joint Commission Standard: RI.01.01.01; Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 70707(b)(10). |                                       |
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