

CODE AMBER – INFANT/CHILD SAFETY FROM ABDUCTION December 20, 2019

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Policy Title:	Code Amber – Infant/Child Safety from Abduction
Department/Manual:	UH Administrative Policies
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Supersedes:	None
Approved By:	Lynda Arnold, Director Family Health Services Ricardo Maldonado, Director Allied Universal Services
Final Approval:	Carl Kirton, Chief Nursing Officer
Attachments:	None

PURPOSE:

To provide security for newborn and pediatric patients and visitors throughout the inpatient/outpatient areas, including but not limited to Intensive Care Nursery, Intermediate Care Nursery, F-Green Mother Baby, G-Green Pediatrics, PICU, and specialty clinics.

DEFINITION:

Infant/Pediatric Abduction is defined as the unauthorized removal of an infant/child from any location on University Hospital premises.

The following are unauthorized removals:

- 1.) Removal by a parent, when assessed risk to the child, rising to the level of the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP) involvement and/or custody even though the parent can sign for a procedure and/or visit the child.
- 2.) When the child’s physical condition warrants immediate or continued medical care and treatment.
- 3.) The unacknowledged or unauthorized separation between a child and their parent or legal guardian while on the premises of University Hospital.

Infants and Pediatric patients and visitors, unless otherwise determined by identified exceptions, are classified by an age-group from Birth until the last day of their 17th year.

- 1.) Infants or Pediatric out-patients and children visiting University Hospital with parents or guardians shall be treated as patients in regard to this policy.

“Lockdown”, as it appears in this policy is the control of selected entrance/exit doors that can

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effectively be manned during the activation of a **CODE AMBER** alert. It is not intended to mislead staff or law enforcement agencies that every point of entry/exit has or will be secured.

“Non-In-Patient Care Areas” is designated for all areas that comprise University Hospital occupied space that does not perform treatment to “In-Patients” outside of the hospital building. This is inclusive of ACC, DOC, Cancer Center, and all remote locations where University Hospital maintains prime or tenant occupancy.

POLICY:

Patient Care Areas

- 1) An electronic security system locks the main entrance doors of identified areas within Family Health Services Nursery area, F-Green, and G-Green.
- 2) The Infant/Child Abduction security system is operated by the Nursing Department, supported by Allied Universal Security, and maintained by Centrak. Nursing is to assure that the doors remain locked at all times. Functional operation of the doors should be monitored by physical plant and security.
- 3) During a fire alarm activation, all secured egress doors will automatically unlock. This includes all double corridor doors leaving F-Green, and G-Green.
- 4) The Director of Patient Care Services or designee – Division of Family Health Services will periodically review and approve University Hospital employees needing access to secured Family Health Service areas.
- 5) All staff members will be responsible to assure the utmost safety and protection to all infants/children at all times.

UH Security Responsibilities:

- a. In the Out-Patient areas, external to the hospital property, a security guard is stationed at the Lobby-Level reception desk so that visitors to the building can be visualized.
- b. Upon notification of a **CODE AMBER** announcement, Allied Universal Security will initiate a hospital-wide lockdown process to the extent possible with available staff.
- c. Once abduction is confirmed, notify all applicable law enforcement agencies.
- d. Initiate internal search of building where abduction occurred.
- e. Upon conclusion of internal search, notify hospital of an “All Clear” determination.

UH Staff Responsibilities:

- 1) Initiate **CODE AMBER** by calling “111” immediately; Allied Universal Security will automatically be dispatched.
- 2) During fire alarm activation, all secured egress doors will automatically unlock. This

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includes all double corridor doors leaving F-Green, and G-Green.

- 3) Allied Universal Security will:
 - a. Upon notification of a **CODE AMBER** announcement, Allied Universal Security will initiate a hospital-wide lockdown process to the extent possible with available staff.
 - b. Identify and document all infant and pediatric visitors attempting to enter a locked unit. They shall notify the Clinic/Area of every infant and child prior to granting entry onto any locked unit.
 - c. Identify and document all infant and pediatric visitors attempting to exit the facility.

- 4) In the event of an infant /child abduction, the following must be adhered to:
 - a. Staff must immediately call the Hospital Operator at “**111**” and ask them to immediately overhead page “**CODE AMBER**”;
The following information to be provided to “**111**” Hospital Operator:
 - (i) Reason for the **CODE AMBER**
 - (ii) Description of suspect(s), (sex, race, height, weight, clothing and any other distinguishing marks);
 - (iii) Description of the infant, (sex, race, name, clothing/blankets, age, size, height, weight if appropriate);
 - (iv) Last time infant/child was seen and the location of where the abduction took place.
 - (v) Location and time of discovery.

 - b. Hospital Operator to dispatch Allied Universal Security, notifying of information above.

- 5) The room/area where the child was abducted should not be disturbed in an effort to preserve anything in the area that might be used as evidence or to aid in the investigation.

- 6) The Assistant Director of Nursing and/or designee will assure all the remaining patients are safe and accounted for and assigned staff to the exits and advise all staff and visitors that no one is allowed to enter the building or leave without package inspection or child verification until the all clear is announced.

- 7) Director of Nursing Family Health Services, or designee will work in conjunction with Allied Universal Security to ensure that family notification, if applicable, will be done as soon as possible.

- 8) Hospital Maintenance will respond immediately and perform overall function checks on all other infant/child secured areas and take any necessary corrective action. Hospital Maintenance will immediately call contracted service provider for emergency service to test and/or correct any and all aspects of system operation.

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- 9) Once the infant/child is found or if Allied Universal Security, in agreement with Hospital Management, have determined that there is no longer a need to keep the hospital in a lock down situation, UH Security will instruct the Hospital Operators to announce “**CODE AMBER – ALL CLEAR**”.

REFERENCE:

NJAC Title 8 Chapter 43E subchapter 10

The Joint Commission CAMH