
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS MEDICAL CENTER AT CHICAGO
CLINICAL CARE GUIDELINES

Subject: Prevention of infant abduction/Code Pink Disaster Plan

OBJECTIVE

The goal of these guidelines is to prevent the abduction of infants in the Women's & Family Health Care Units.

This goal will be achieved by:

- The entire staff of Women's & Family Health Services (WFHS) participating in the periodic drills and review of safety measures implemented to enhance security.
- The development of a multidisciplinary plan of action implemented for all suspected or actual infant abductions occurring within the Division of Women's & Children's Health Services.

DEFINITIONS

Women's & Family Health Services (WFHS): The Labor Triage/ER, Labor & Delivery, Labor & Delivery Operating Rooms and Post Anesthesia Care Unit, Antepartum, Antepartum Stepdown, Mother-Baby, and Gynecology Units.

Women's & Children's Health Services: All of WFHS and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NNICU), Intermediate Care Nursery (ICN), Pediatrics, and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).

POSITION STATEMENTS

1. We at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago believe that the security of each patient, especially newborns, is integral to the mission of the Medical Center.
2. We are committed to optimizing security for infants as recommended by the Joint Commission.
3. We believe that staff involvement and vigilance is the most effective security measure in preventing infant abduction and in aiding recovery should an abduction occur.

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PROCEDURE

Measures that will Assist in Infant Abduction Prevention and Enhance Recovery

1. All staff will be required to wear proper University of Illinois identification at all times.
2. Hospital scrubs and lab coats will be kept in an access-controlled area and are not to be loaned to unauthorized personnel.
3. Staff will ensure that infants are always in the direct line-of-sight of parents or hospital staff.
4. Parents will be informed of security measures at earliest opportunity after the birth of the infant.
5. Parents will be instructed to tell family members to use the Visitors Elevators, not the Staff Elevators or stairs.
6. Nursing staff will document the review of University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago security measures with the mother and other appropriate significant others in the patient education notes.
7. Only WFHS staff members are allowed to transport an infant while in the healthcare facility.
8. Parents or staff members are NOT allowed to carry the infant outside of the mother's room or within the facility at any time.
9. WFHS staff will transport the infant within the healthcare facility via wheeled bassinet, incubator or cart.
10. WFHS staff will escort the family to the first floor lobby door at the time of discharge.
- 11. Staff will immediately report any unidentified individuals, suspicious activity or behavior or unfamiliar persons to the charge nurse. The Charge Nurse will in turn contact *University of Illinois Police at 6-HELP*.**
12. Staff will require everyone entering the Women's & Family Health Services Units to identify themselves and reason for their visit. Visitors without guest passes will be directed to hospital information desk.
13. Video surveillance monitors traffic flow on the 4th floor hallways (including the elevators) and stairwells (including stairwell #4).
14. Access and egress electronic alarms sound when a door is breached.
15. If home visitation services are required after discharge, the Discharge Coordinator will instruct the families on the specific arrangements, i.e., and name of the person or company entering the home and the nature of the visit.

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Parent and infant identification measures include:

1. At delivery, the mother and infant will be banded with identically numbered University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago identification bracelets.
2. If the mother chooses, the 4th band is applied to the father or the mother's significant other.
3. If the second parent or mother's significant other is not in attendance at the delivery, or the mother does not wish for the baby to have another designated primary visitor, the delivery room nurse will secure the 4th band to the **Identifier™** Newborn Identification ('footprint') sheet and place the Newborn Identification sheet on the patient's chart. The chart is kept in a secure location at all times.
4. In the event of a multiple gestation, the parent(s) will be banded with a numbered identification bracelet for each infant.
5. The University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago identification bracelet will be secured to the infant(s) at all times.
6. The parent(s) will be instructed that their University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago hospital identification bracelet(s) must be worn at all times until the infant is discharged.
7. If the parents' numbered identification band become lost or illegible, the parent and infant will be re-banded after confirming the parents' identity documented by picture identification methods such as a driver's license, passport or official state identification card.
8. The parent's numbered identification band must be shown to the WFHS staff when requested.
9. A photograph of the infant will be obtained by the First Foto technician as soon as possible after admission.

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A critical-incident-response plan has been developed for a breach of infant security: CODE PINK DISASTER PLAN (see UICMC Disaster Plan, Chapter 12: Infant Abduction B.12.1).

Door Alarms

1. With the exception of stairwell #4, if one of the stairwell doors on the 4th Floor is opened, an alarm will sound in the area where the door was breached and in the 4 West Nurse's Station.
2. The Charge Nurse or his/her designee will announce "Code Pink in progress" over the unit's public address system.
3. The 4 West Charge Nurse or his/her designee will call each of the units where the alarm is not sounding (Labor & Delivery 6-4175 and NNICU/ICN 6-4150).
4. Immediately, all staff members will check to see that each of their assigned babies is present and accounted for.
5. These staff members will report to the Charge Nurse whether or not each baby is present and accounted for.
6. During the intervening period, all other staff members are expected to look for suspicious persons on the unit/4th Floor.
7. Each area (NNICU, ICN/Observation/Boarder Nurseries, Labor Triage, and Labor & Delivery) must call the 4 West Nurse's Station (6-4120) ASAP after checking to see that each infant is present and accounted for.
8. The 4 West Charge Nurse **must** call the University of Illinois Police Department (**6-HELP**) and report that each baby is or is not accounted for.
9. The 4 West Charge Nurse documents in the Code Pink Log Book the date and time the door alarm initially sounded, the door that was breached, and the time each area calls in with an 'all clear' on their baby count.
10. As more facts become available on the nature of the breach, comments are added to the narrative section of the log.
11. Whenever the door alarms sound, a message is simultaneously transmitted to the University of Illinois Police Department.
12. A University of Illinois Police Officer is immediately dispatched to the 4th Floor to complete a report.
13. If a University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago employee disregards the signage on the door and trips the alarm, a message will be sent to that individual's Director.

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14. Each time the alarm sounds, without exception, this protocol will be followed.

PROCEDURE

Suspected or Actual Infant Abduction

1. We follow the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago "Code Pink" Disaster Plan (UICMC Disaster Plan B.12.1).
2. The staff member suspecting an infant abduction will conduct a brief search of the immediate vicinity (eg patient's room and nearby hallway).
3. If the staff member continues to suspect an infant abduction, the charge nurse is notified immediately.
4. The charge nurse or his/her designee announces "Code Pink in progress".
5. It is important to remember that the door alarms **will not** sound if an alarmed door is not breached.
6. The WFHS staff members will **immediately** check to see that each baby in their care is present and accounted for.
7. If there is reason to suspect that a baby may be in another vicinity on the 4th Floor (eg Treatment Room, or mother's room, those rooms are quickly checked before calling the University of Illinois Police Department (**6-HELP**)).
8. If there is little or no reason to suspect that a baby may be in another vicinity on the 4th Floor, the University of Illinois Police Department (**6-HELP**) are called immediately.
9. The University of Illinois Police Department will contact the Security Department at the Medical Center.
10. The Security Department will block all of the exits.
11. The University of Illinois Police Department will contact the Security Department to announce via the Fire Alarm Public Address System "Code Pink in now in effect. All personnel be on alert." No location is given since Code Pink affects **all** Medical Center units.
12. If time permits before the hospital operator calls the code, the Charge Nurse or his/her designee calls each of the other 4th Floor units to notify them of the Code Pink in progress (Labor & Delivery 6-4175, NNICU/ICN 6-4150, Mother-Baby 6-4120).
13. All exit doors on the 4th Floor are immediately observed and blocked by all available staff.
14. All persons are detained from leaving the unit until cleared by the Charge Nurse and / or the search of the unit has been completed.
15. Staff must immediately search the entire unit and 4th Floor.
16. It is important to remember to search in unlikely places such as closets, beneath beds, behind curtains, in offices, in call rooms, in locker rooms, in dumpsters, etc.

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Care of the Family Experiencing an Infant Abduction

1. Move the parents of the abducted infant to a private room.
2. Have the nurse assigned to the infant remain with the parents at all times.

Other Administrative Duties of the Charge Nurse

1. Locate and secure the infant's medical records.
2. Locate and secure the infant's blood sent for metabolic screen or, if available, other blood samples.
3. Page the Patient Unit Director and the Nursing Resource Office Supervisor.
4. Nurse manager or Charge Nurse briefs all staff on the unit.
5. Nurses should then explain the situation to each mother on the unit while the mother and their infant(s) are together.
6. Conduct mandatory group debriefing sessions for personnel.

References:

Safeguard Their Tomorrows: What Healthcare Professionals Need to Know. (2005).
Mead Johnson Nutritionals. Evansville, Ind. 47721. DVD (49:00 minutes).

Safeguard Their Tomorrows: What Healthcare Professionals Need to Know. (2005).
Center for Missing and Exploited Children/ AWHONN and Mead Johnson Nutritionals.

Hospital Management Policy and Procedure Manual:
UICMC Disaster Plan: Internal Disaster - -Chapter 12 – Infant Abduction (B.12.1)

Hospital Management Policy and Procedure Manual:
Missing / Eloped Patient CC 3.05

Nursing Services Policy and Procedure Manual:
Safety and Security: Patient Identification Bands 27-04-00
Safety and Security: Assistance from University Police 27-07-00

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