

TITLE: Code Exit – Patient Elopement		
FACILITY: St. Vincent's East	FUNCTION:	ORIGINATING DEPT: Safety
HOSPITAL SHARED POLICY? X_ Yes ___ No		EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2008
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ORIGINATION DATE: 10-22-08		LAST REVISION DATE:
APPROVAL DATE:		RETIREMENT DATE:

SCOPE: St. Vincent's East Campus
PURPOSE: To help ensure the safety and security of patients, visitors and associates of St. Vincent's East during a patient elopement situation.
DEFINITIONS: Code Exit - Patient Elopement or Wandering
POLICY:
PROCEDURE: In the instance that a patient is missing from their room or designated area for longer than thirty minutes, or who has left the area without being appropriately discharged: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Associate who is responsible for the patient at the time will first notify Protective Services by dialing X3500 and reporting a Code Exit. The associate will be responsible for giving Protective Services the address and description of the missing patient. • If the patient is not located at that time a Code Exit will be paged overhead.

*The contents of this document rescind any previous document covering similar material.
The online version of this document is deemed current.*

- All smoking and visitor waiting areas will be thoroughly checked for the missing patient by Protective Services.
- Protective Services will then send a text page and email with the Room #, patient name, and brief description of the missing patient to all associates with an alpha/numeric pager.
- If necessary, Protective Services will notify Birmingham Police Department (BPD) for a health and welfare check depending on the patient's condition. Protective Services will verify that the check as been made.
- Anyone finding the patient will need to immediately contact Protective Services at X 3500. Protective Services will then escort the patient to their room or designated area.
- Nursing Service should also be notified if the patient is located.
- A "Code Exit Clear" will be paged overhead and sent via alpha/numeric page once the incident has been managed.

REFERENCES:

ATTACHMENTS:

APPROVAL ROUTING:

Safety Manager → VP Operations → Safety Committee

REVIEW HISTORY:

REVISION HISTORY: