

SECTION 11.5

CODE PURPLE: CHILD ABDUCTION

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE EVENT A CHILD ABDUCTION OCCURS AT LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH

RESPONSE

Actual Child Abduction

1. When a child is suspected or confirmed to be missing the employee notifies Security Control Center by calling 911.
 - The employee provides as much information or details as requested by security.
 - This does not delay the response time.

Unit/Department

1. The employee makes a rapid assessment of the situation, observing events and people in the area.
2. The employee alerts all staff of the “Code Purple”.
3. The Department head or designee ensures that staff cover all exits and stairwells on the units and assists with unit search
4. The Department head or designee ensures that staff cover all exits and stairwells checking stairwells and observing the events and people in the area.
5. The Department head or designee assigns someone to search the patient rooms, closets, bathrooms, utility rooms, etc...
6. The Department head or designee accounts for all children on the unit.
7. The Department head or designee notifies the manager/supervisor/director.
8. The Department head or designee provides a private room for family of missing child.
 - Items in room are not to be moved in order to preserve evidence. Roommate shall be moved to another room if available in order to provide privacy for the family of the missing child.

Responders on A Level and Lobby Level

1. Immediately upon hearing “Code Purple” designated responders go to the nearest exit areas and check outside exits.
 - a. Check inside of stairwells.
2. Remains at exit location until relieved by another staff member, Security personnel or “Code Purple clear” is announced.
3. Inform people that this is an emergency situation and it will be necessary to stand by while every adult with a child is cleared.
4. Ask any adult with a child to wait momentarily until the “Code Purple” is over or the adult and child are cleared by security.
5. Ask any adult with a large bag to open the bag in order to inspect the contents.

6. If a person exits the facility with a child or has a large bag and refuses to stop or allow bags to be inspected, the responder should note the physical description of the suspicious individual, their direction of travel and immediately report any observations to security control at 911.

Security Control Center/Security Officer

1. Immediately notifies security officers to conduct search.
2. Makes overhead announcement initiating a Code Purple and the floor from which the child is missing (i.e. Code Purple, Fifth Floor).
3. Sends out group page to children’s hospital administrators/managers
4. Notifies local law enforcement if missing child is confirmed.
5. Initiates group page to administrators and managers.
6. Dispatches Security Department representative to unit to meet with reporting employee when child is confirmed missing.
7. Completes written report.
8. Establishes command post.

Administrative Supervisor / Nurse Manager / Designee

Notifies parents/guardian, attending physician, blood bank and clinical lab to retain specimens for DNA identification, if needed when child is confirmed missing.

Other Hospital Staff and University Staff/Students

1. Inform parents/visitors that a child abduction is in effect and they should stay with their infant until the “Code Purple Clear” is announced.
2. Reports persons exhibiting suspicious behavior to the Security department at extension 911.

Public and Media

1. Activates emergency media proceedings.
2. Arranges media briefing at regular intervals.

PREPARATION

Education and Training

1. Staff are educated to the LLUH “Code Purple”: Child Abduction (a child 12 months of age or greater who is missing) by the following:
 - a. General Orientation for new employees
 - b. Annual BLUE (Basic Learning Units for Employees) Book
 - c. Department/unit orientation
 - d. 10-minute (educational post in-service)
 - e. Staff Development competency series on Infant & Child Security

Policies

2. The following policies are utilized for education and training:
 - a. LLUH Security Operating Policy S-6 “Infant and Pediatric Security”
 - b. LLUH Security Operating Policy S-8 “Patient Identification”
 - c. LLUH TMS Operating Policy I-24 “Employee Identification”

MITIGATION

Preventive Considerations

1. In the event of a suspected or actual abduction, “Code Purple” would be announced house-wide for a child greater than 12 months of age. As more information is given to Security, up-dated announcements will be made.
2. Quarterly infant drills are conducted to practice and assess response, process and procedures in the event of a child abduction in the health care settings.
 1. The assigned observer critiques these drills.
 2. Security and the Code Pink, Purple, and Green Committee evaluate the findings from these drills.
 3. Opportunities for improvement are identified and implemented by assigned members.
3. According to the LLUH Security Operating Policy S-8, each admitted patient shall be identified by use of an identification band.
4. According to LLUH Security Operating Policy S-6, the physical security of children shall be protected by the following:
 1. House-wide staff response to “Code Purple”
 2. Vigilant and trained Medical Center staff
 3. LLUH faculty and staff should have an awareness of the protocol in the event they are in the vicinity when the notification occurs
5. According to LLUH Security Operating Policy S-6, children shall be discharged to a parent or guardian only after identification is verified with photo identification or the photo in the chart.
6. According to LLUH Security Operating Policy S-6, an employee, parent or guardian shall accompany children when transported off the unit.
 1. A crib, gurney, wagon, wheelchair or ambulate if able shall be used to transport a child off the unit.
7. According to LLUH TMS Operating Policy I-24, all employees on duty in the medical center shall wear an identification badge issued by TMS.

RECOVERY

Process upon Recovery

1. According to LLUH Security Operating Policy S-6, when a child is located/returned the following events occur:
 - a. The charge nurse/social worker notifies the child’s physician to immediately evaluate physical status.
 - b. The charge nurse/social worker immediately notifies the parent/guardian and the security control center.
 - c. The security control center immediately notifies all the security officers, group page to administrators and managers, announces Code Purple all clear.
 - d. The administrative supervisor/Executive Director/Department Head Nurse/Nurse Manager immediately notifies Blood Bank and Clinical Lab.
 - e. The Physician writes order to admit child to appropriate unit for care.
 - f. The Nurse Manager/Spiritual Care Clinicians provide an opportunity for debriefing within 24 to 48 hours post incident for staff members.
2. Security and the Code Pink, Purple, and Green Committee evaluate the abduction event for process improvement opportunities.