(A) Policy Statement

To provide nursing practice guidelines for when a patient leaves the hospital AMA.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To inform the patient of his/her risks and responsibility, to make certain the Physician and/or Nursing Director (ND)/Operation Supervisor, and/or House Supervisor (HS) are aware of the patient’s desire to leave and to ensure communication with the Admitting Department so they may complete the discharge.

(C) Procedure

1. Notify the medical house officer and ND/HS of the patient’s desire to sign out AMA. Obtain a “Leave from UTMC Against Medical Advice” form (LG005).
2. Inform the patient that signing the form releases the physician and the hospital of all responsibility of his/her care. Inform patient and document complications that could occur from early dismissal.
3. Inform patient that some third party payers will not cover charges incurred if patient leaves AMA.
4. Request the patient to sign the release form. If the patient refuses to sign but insists on leaving the hospital, make explicit documentation in the medical record.
5. Document all pertinent information concerning the patient’s actions in the medical record.
6. Place the form in the patient’s medical record.
7. Continue and complete discharge procedure.