

## NURSING SERVICES GUIDELINE 6CD INPATIENT DETOX UNIT

**Guideline:** Patient request to leave  
AMA (against medical  
advice)



**Policy Number Superseded:**

**Effective Date:**  
April 23, 2025

**Responsibility:** Department Directors/Lead  
Nurses/Detox Floor Nurses/Designees

**Initial Effective Date:**  
August 2017

**Purpose of Guideline:** To direct recovery  
services staff to proper policies regarding AMA,  
and have step by step procedures to follow to  
ensure the safety of a patient requesting to  
leave AMA.

### **Procedure:**

If a patient, who is voluntarily admitted on the inpatient recovery services unit requests to leave the hospital before being discharged by attending MD, staff will follow [policy 3364-100-10-10 Against Medical Advice: Informed Refusal/Withdrawal of Treatment or Leaving the Hospital](#) (AMA policy).

- (A) It must be determined that the patient is competent to make this decision. See section D of the AMA policy.
- (B) If patient is competent, then follow the AMA policy.
- (C) If unable to determine if patient is competent, put in psych consult to determine patient's decision-making capacity. See [policy 3364-100-45-23 Involuntary Civil Commitment; Patients Lacking Decision-Making Capacity](#) - Section F.4. for further clarification.
- (D) If patient is found to be competent then follow AMA policy.

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(E) If patient is found to be incompetent, then patient needs to be transferred.

- (1) If patient is suicidal/homicidal, the provider will evaluate the patient for potential “pink slip” (emergency admission to psychiatric facility).
- (2) If patient’s incompetence is due to medical instability, patient’s provider may decide to transfer patient to another medical unit for ongoing care.

Approved by:

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April 23, 2028