



Nursing Service Guidelines

Inpatient Behavioral Health

Title: Patient request to leave AMA (Against Medical Advice)

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

Purpose of Guidelines: 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 the AMA policy #3364-100-10-10.

1. It must be determined that the patient is competent to make this decision. See section D of AMA policy.
2. If patient is competent then follow AMA policy.
3. 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. Section F. #4 for further clarification.
4. If patient is found to be competent then follow AMA policy.
5. If patient is found to be "incompetent" then patient needs to be transferred:
 - A) If patient is Suicidal/Homicidal, the provider will evaluate the patient for potential "pink slip" (emergency admission to psychiatric facility).
 - B) If patient's "incompetence" is due to medical instability, patient's provider may decide to transfer patient to another medical unit for ongoing care.

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Approved: 8/2017

Reviewed: 8/2019, 2/2021, 6/1/2023, 4/23/2025

Revised:

Reviewed by Policy & Standard Committee: