

NURSING SERVICE GUIDELINES GENERAL

Guideline: Patients leaving hospital
against medical advice
(AMA)



Policy Number Superseded: 3364-110-04-06

Effective Date:
February 24, 2026

Responsibility: Registered nurse (RN)

Initial Effective Date:
February 24, 2026

Purpose of Guidelines: To provide nursing practice guidelines for when a patient leaves the hospital AMA; to inform the patient of his/her risks and responsibility; to make certain the Physician, Nursing Director, and House Supervisor are aware of the patient's desire to leave; and to ensure communication with the Admitting Department so they may complete the discharge.

Procedure:

- (A) Notify the patient's attending physician and house supervisor of the patient's desire to sign out Against Medical Advice (AMA). Obtain a "Leave from UTMC Against Medical Advice" form.
- (B) Inform the patient that signing the AMA form releases the physician/provider and the hospital of all responsibility. Inform patient and document complications that could occur from early dismissal.
- (C) Inform patient that some third-party payers will not cover charges incurred if patient leaves AMA.
- (D) Request the patient to sign the AMA release form. If the patient refuses to sign but insists on leaving the hospital, document discussion and all pertinent information concerning the patient's actions in the medical record.
- (E) Place the form in the patient's medical record.
- (F) Continue and complete discharge procedure.

Guideline:
Patients leaving hospital against medical advice

2

Approved by:

Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC
Chief Nursing Officer

Initial effective date:

February 24, 2026

Review/Revision Completed by:

Julia Benfield, BSN, RN, CEN
Nursing Director, Emergency Department

Review/Revision Date:

-

Next review date:

February 24, 2029