

<b>Name of Policy: Elopement Precautions and Processes</b>			
<b>Policy Number:</b> 3364-122-13			
<b>Approving Officer:</b> Chief Executive Officer Chief Nursing Officer Medical Director		<b>Effective date:</b> TBD March 2026 – Currently posted for comment; combined with 3364-120-74 Absent Without Leave and Guideline: Runaway precautions	
<b>Responsible Agent:</b> Nursing Director Inpatient Psychiatry		<b>Original effective date:</b> August 1983	
<b>Scope:</b> The University of Toledo Medical Center			
Key words: Kobacker, safety, elopement, precautions, restrictions			
	New policy proposal		Minor/technical revision of existing policy
X	Major revision of existing policy		Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy statement

To provide safety for the patient and others in the environment and prevent elopement from the inpatient unit. Appropriate procedure will be followed in the event of an elopement.

(B) Purpose of policy

For the protection and safety of patients.

(C) Procedure

- (1) Patients may be placed on elopement precautions by a physician’s written or verbal order.
- (2) As a result of his/her clinical assessment, designated RN may place a patient on elopement precautions, and request that the physician sign this order during his/her next unit visit.
- (3) All elopement precaution orders will be written for a specific length of time and reviewed at the end of that time.

## Elopement Precautions and Processes

- (4) Documentation of patient behavior will be made in the electronic medical record every shift, day and night.
- (5) Patients on elopement precautions will be restricted to activities within the building and will be observed closely when near exits or when being transported off the unit.
- (6) All staff need to be aware of the potential for elopement. The medical record will be flagged, indicating the patient is on elopement precautions.
- (7) The patient's team members will be notified of any patient that is on elopement precautions by the nurse each morning.
- (8) If an elopement occurs:
  - (a) Check the entire unit, including the patient's room.
  - (b) The following persons will be notified in the following order.
    - (i) Campus police/campus security. Give picture and description of patient, clothing and circumstances.
    - (ii) Toledo Police Department, if necessary.
    - (iii) Nursing director or administrative director.
    - (iv) Unit medical director and/or attending physician.
    - (v) Parent/guardian.
    - (vi) Hospital administration, if available.
    - (vii) Other necessary team members - i.e., therapist, school.
- (9) Document in medical record of all notifications or attempts to notify, as well as all interventions made and any relevant clinical observations related to patient's behavior and mental state.

Elopement Precautions and Processes

**Approved by:**

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 Daniel Barbee, MBA, BSN, RN, FACHE  
 Chief Executive Officer

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 Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Tanvir Singh, MD  
 Medical Director, CAPH Unit

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Kassa Casey, MSN, RN  
 Nurse Director, Inpatient Psychiatry

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 Date

*Review/Revision Completed by:  
 Psychiatry – Inpatient Administration*

**Policies Superseded by this Policy:**

- 3364-120-74 Absent Without Leave
- Guideline: Runaway precautions

Initial effective date: August 1983

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April 1994	April 8, 2014
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