Section 9 Policies Subject 9.13 Patient Care **Policy 9.13.32 Infant Abduction Response Policy for Inpatients**	04/06/09 -Originated 02/06/14 -Reviewed w/ changes -Reviewed w/o changes 02/28/14 - Effective Newborn Nursery -Author

Infant/Child Abduction Response Policy for Inpatient Areas

Definitions

***Abduction*:** to illegally or secretly carry off an infant or child

Policy

Suspected abduction of an infant or child from UTMB hospitals or clinics shall be immediately reported to UTMB Police. Hospital and clinic leadership will be promptly notified of any suspected abduction.

UTMB is committed to the safe and compassionate care of all patients and their families. The abduction of an infant or child from the hospital is unlawful and poses a threat to both the well being of the infant/child, the parents, and other patients of UTMB. All employees:

1. shall complete annual training on infant/child abduction prevention, currently titled Threatening Situations (managers will assign contract employees for training on an as needed basis)
2. are required to report any suspicious behavior that could endanger patient care.
3. shall call Campus Police on a hospital land line by dialing 911 or 21111, if a child or infant cannot be located
4. shall refer to the Emergency Procedure Manual for the steps to follow in the event of a possible abduction.
5. who transport infants and/or children shall have a UTMB picture identification (ID) badge with unique distinctive marking/color indicating clearance for transport

Alert Activated

Each area shall determine a specific response regarding hospital exit coverage when an abduction alert is issued.

Individual area responses are to be maintained by the area supervisor/ manager. Staff in each area shall be informed of their area plan.

Staff shall ask anyone with a child or infant to wait until an all clear is announced. Persons with suspicious items or large bags, boxes or carts may also be asked to stand in place until an all clear is announced.

Staff shall not attempt to stop anyone who appears armed.

Only Campus Police can issue an all clear.

Responsibilities

Campus Police:

1. shall dispatch the call to their officers
2. shall notify other law enforcement agencies as necessary
3. shall notify Office of Marketing and Communications

Hospital Operator:
shall notify a page group of identified responders via the paging system about the abduction, location and brief description (as available)

Office of Marketing and Communications:
In the event of an actual abduction or missing child,

1. shall notify area media
2. shall use a mass notification system such as Everbridge to send an alert message to UTMB personnel that a possible abduction has occurred
3. Shall implement the communication plan utilizing current communication resources available

Clinical Operations Administrators (COA):

1. will notify campus police that all infants are accounted for, at which time campus police will issue all clear
   OR
2. shall notify other local hospitals if an abduction or attempted abduction has occurred

Environmental Health and Safety:

1. Testing of the Dr. Pink Announcer System will be coordinated with Hospital Leadership, Campus Police and Business Operational Facilities.
2. Testing shall follow the procedures outlined in the reference section link.

References

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. (2009). *For healthcare professionals: Guidelines on prevention of and response to infant abductions, 9th ed.*

Nursing Policy 7.11.25 Prevention of Infant and Child Abduction

Dr. Pink Announcer system testing procedures are to be followed. Refer to this link for procedure.