Section 9 Policies Subject 9.13 Patient Care **Policy 9.13.32 Infant Abduction Response Policy**	04/06/09 -Originated 04/01/10 -Reviewed w/ changes -Reviewed w/o changes Newborn Nursery -Author

Infant/Child Abduction Response Policy

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:

- 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)
- are required to report any suspicious behavior that could endanger patient care.
- shall call Campus Police on a hospital land line by dialing 911 or 21111, if a child or infant cannot be located
- shall refer to the Emergency Procedure Manual for the steps to follow in the event of a possible abduction.
- who transport infants and children shall have a UTMB picture identification (ID) badges with unique distinctive marking/color indicating clearance for transport
- shall receive an Infant Abduction Response card (pink card) describing the infant abduction response process that will be worn with their ID badge while at work.

Alert Activated

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

Staff shall ask anyone with a child or infant to wait 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:

- shall dispatch the call to their officers
- shall notify other law enforcement agencies as necessary
- shall notify Office of Public Affairs

Hospital Operator:

- shall notify a page group of identified responders via the paging system about the abduction, location and brief descriptor

Office of Public Affairs:

- shall notify area media
- shall use a mass notification system such as First Call to send an alert message to UTMB personnel when a possible abduction has occurred
- Shall implement the communication plan utilizing current communication resources available

Clinical Operations Administrators:

- shall notify other local hospitals of the abduction

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