Section	9	Clinical	12/21/07 -Originated
Subject	9.3	Patient Risk, Treatment and Safety	05/12/11 -Reviewed w/ changes -Reviewed w/o changes
Policy	**9.3.32**	**Abandoned Infant (Baby Moses) Policy**	Nursing -Author

Abandoned Infant Policy (Baby Moses)

Definitions

Designated Emergency Infant Care Provider (DEIC): any operation where an infant can be left without fear of criminal prosecution for abandonment of a child; a child-placing agency (CPA) licensed by Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) can be a designated emergency infant care provider if the CPA :

- Agrees to act as a designated emergency infant care provider;
- Has on staff a person who is licensed as a registered nurse, or who provides emergency medical services, and who will examine and provide emergency medical services to a child taken into possession by the agency;
- Examples include: hospitals, fire rescue stations or EMS stations

Abandoned Infant: according to the DFPS, an abandoned infant meets the criteria for a Baby Moses case if the infant:

- is 60 days old or younger;
- has not been harmed (does not appear to have been abused or neglected);
- has been voluntarily delivered to a Designated Emergency Infant Care (DEIC) provider such as UTMB, at a specific location indicated by a sign that reads "Safe Baby Site" and

- is delivered to a DEIC by a parent who does not express intent to return for the infant.

Policy

In compliance with Texas Family Code, Subchapter D, Section 262.302 – 262.307, UTMB requires any staff member who receives or discovers a child, who appears to meet criteria as a Baby Moses case (see above), to ensure that the child is taken immediately to the Emergency Department to determine if any evidence of abuse or neglect is identified.

Procedures

Emergency Department staff are responsible for notifying the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services hotline at 1-800-252-5400 (available 24 hours a day) as soon as a child is determined to meet criteria as a Baby Moses case. Staff should wait "not later than the close of the first business day after the date on which a designated emergency infant care provider takes possession of a child" to notify DFPS.

If the child's name and date of birth are unknown, the child should be registered using an alias, with a date of birth estimated by Neonatology

Procedures, continued

medical staff After an Emergency Room assessment, the infant should be admitted Pediatrics.

Staff has no legal duty to ascertain the parent's identity and the parent may remain anonymous. However, the parent may be given a form for voluntary disclosure of the child's medical facts and history, if desired. The Safe Baby Site (SBS) Medical Disclosure form may be obtained on-line in both English and Spanish or from the Emergency Department Care Managers. The Department of Care Management staff will coordinate with DFPS regarding discharge disposition.

Staff should not contact law enforcement unless it appears that the child has been abused or neglected.

References

IHOP 1.1.3 Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures
Texas Family Code