

Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures
Policy 09.13.32

Section: Clinical Policies	Responsible Vice President: EVP & COO Clinical Enterprise
Subject: Patient Care	Responsible Entity: Newborn Nursery

I. Title

Infant/Child Abduction Response Policy for Inpatient Areas

II. 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 wellbeing 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; and
5. who transport infants and/or children shall have a UTMB picture identification (ID) badge with unique distinctive marking/color indicating clearance for transport.

III. Procedure

A. Alert Activated

Immediate Response:

- Upon hearing “Dr. Pink,” check hallways, stairwells, and exits.

Remain at Exits:

- Post at an exit until relieved by another staff member, or until the “Dr. Pink” is cleared.

Bag Inspection:

- Request that any adult with a large enough bag to hold an infant open it for inspection.

Reporting Suspicious Activity:

- If an individual with an infant or a large bag refuses to stop or allow inspection, note their physical description, and immediately notify UTMB Police. Try to maintain visual observation.

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.

B. Responsibilities

1. Campus Police:
 - a. shall dispatch the call to their officers;
 - b. shall use a mass notification system such as Everbridge to send an alert message to UTMB personnel that a possible abduction has occurred
 - c. shall notify other law enforcement agencies as necessary; and
 - d. shall notify the Office of Marketing and Communications as necessary.
2. Hospital Operator: shall notify a page group of identified responders via the paging system about the abduction, location, and brief description, as available.
3. Office of Marketing and Communications:

In the event of an actual abduction or missing child:

- a. Notify area media; as directed; and
 - b. shall implement the communication plan utilizing current communication resources available.
4. Clinical Operations Administrators (COA):
 - a. will notify campus police that all infants are accounted for, at which time campus police will issue all clear; OR
 - b. shall notify other local hospitals if an abduction or attempted abduction has occurred.
 5. Environmental Health and Safety:
 - a. will conduct the testing of the Dr. Pink Announcer System, which will be coordinated with Hospital Leadership, Campus, Police, and Business Operational Facilities.
 - b. Testing shall follow the procedures outlined in the reference section link.

IV. Related UTMB Policies and Procedures

[Nursing Policy 7-6-26 Prevention of Infant/Child Abduction](#)
[Dr. Pink Announcer system testing procedures are to be followed.](#)

V. Additional References

[National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. \(2014\). For healthcare professionals: Guidelines on prevention of and response to infant abductions, 10th ed.](#)

VI. Dates Approved or Amended

<i>Originated: 04/06/2009</i>	
<i>Reviewed with Changes</i>	<i>Reviewed without Changes</i>
02/28/2014	04/10/2016

06/24/25	
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VII. Contact Information

Nursing – Mother/Baby Unit
(409) 772-0286