

SE-KMCS
Code Brown
Missing Adult/Patient
Page 1 of 2

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a response to alert hospital staff when a patient is missing, and establishes procedure for hospital staff to safely locate and return the patient to their appropriate unit.

POLICY:

1. Any hospital employee, upon determination that a patient cannot be found, will call 11112, Campus Police Dispatcher, to announce a “Code Brown.” Code announcement will include age, gender, and the unit that they are missing from.
2. Upon hearing the overhead announcement of “Code Brown”, all hospital staff should immediately be on the watch for persons who fit the description of the missing patient.
3. Mitigation of staff shall include:
 - a. All available hospital personnel will respond to all exits.
 - b. All nursing units will search all rooms within their area.
 - c. All employees not covering an exit or providing direct patient care will be stationed in the hallways nearest their work area.
 - d. Assist in the search effort as assigned.
 - e. Campus Police will search the ground floor and first floor.
 - f. Campus Police and Maintenance Staff will complete an outside search of the campus
 - g. Any hospital staff member who believes that they have located the missing patient is to call the unit that the patient eloped from to ascertain the patient’s identity, and obtain further instructions. Staff on the unit that the patient has eloped from will make the decision as to whether a Code Violet is to be called or other action to be taken, and inform the staff member who located the patient what actions should be taken with the patient.
4. If necessary, once the patient is found, additional assistance to escort the patient back to the unit of care can be request from Campus Police. If additional help is needed to control a patient, Campus Police may contact outside law enforcement for assistance.
5. In the event that the patient has been missing for 30 minutes or greater and the facility and grounds have been searched, Campus Police or the Nursing Supervisor should notify the patient’s family and the attending physician.
6. If patient is not located, Campus Police will notify the local law enforcement agency to inform them of the missing patient.

**SE-KMCS
Code Brown
Missing Adult/Patient
Page 2 of 2**

SPONSORING DEPT:	Complete
DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:	Complete
DATE OF ORIGIN:	Complete
LAST REVIEWED:	Complete
LAST REVISED:	Complete
REPLACES:	Complete, if applicable
APPROVED BY:	
EFFECTIVE DATE:	