

PATIENT MISSING FROM UNIT

Quick Decision Guide: Code Purple vs. Absent Patient



CODE PURPLE

AT-RISK PATIENT ELOPEMENT



AT-RISK CRITERIA

- ✓ Under PEC or legally committed
- ✓ Has a court-appointed guardian
- ✓ Danger to self or others
- ✓ Gravely disabled due to mental disorder
- ✓ Lacks cognitive ability to make decisions
- ✓ Physical limitations increase risk



IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

1. Verify patient is missing.
2. Notify Charge Nurse and search unit.
3. Initiate Code Purple immediately.



NOTIFY OPERATOR - STAT

NOMC Ext. 6911

NORH Ext. 5911



INFORMATION TO PROVIDE

- Patient name and age
- Location/room and location last seen
- Physical description and clothing
- Any special risks or needed assistance
- Your name and callback number



STAFF RESPONSE

Staff will respond immediately and initiate search.



NO PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Do NOT attempt to physically restrain the patient. Ensure safety and notify Security.



RESOLUTION

IF FOUND: Ensure safety, notify provider, reassess patient, and document.

IF NOT FOUND: Continue search with Security and follow-up as directed. Follow Critical Safety Event Communication Guide.



DOCUMENTATION

Document all actions, notifications, and outcome in the medical record. Enter report in HRP program.



ABSENT PATIENT PROCESS

NON-AT-RISK PATIENT



NON-AT-RISK DEFINITION

Patient is NOT under PEC/commitment, does NOT have a court-appointed guardian, is NOT a danger to self or others, and does NOT meet any at-risk criteria listed in Code Purple.



NOTIFY PBX OPERATOR

Notify PBX Operator with patient ROOM NUMBER.
Operator Ext. (NOMC 0 or NORH 0)



ROOM ANNOUNCEMENT

Operator will make the following overhead announcement:

“ATTENTION PLEASE. WILL THE PATIENT IN ROOM ____ PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR ROOM. THANK YOU.”



REPEAT PAGE

Call PBX and request repeat page after approximately 1 hour if the patient has not returned.



PATIENT RETURNS

Assess the patient for needs and safety. Reinforce unit policies and importance of communicating with staff.



DOES NOT RETURN

If the patient does not return within 2 hours, initiate AMA (Against Medical Advice) discharge process.



NorthOaks Health