



Location: Administrative (ADM)\Legal and Regulatory (ADM-LGL)

Revision: 2.50

Document Owner: Manager Risk Management

Original Approval Date: 06/23/2004

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Approval Date: 09/23/2022

Review Frequency: 3 years

Next File Review Date: 09/23/2025

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Unless a policy refers to the Markham Stouffville Hospital, operating at 381 Church Street, Markham, ON in particular, reference to "Markham Stouffville Hospital" on a policy with an approval date of on or before August 18, 2021, shall be interpreted to mean the corporate entity Oak Valley Health. Any reference to "Markham Stouffville Hospital" on a policy with an approval date on or following August 18, 2021, shall be interpreted to mean only the hospital located at 381 Church Street, Markham, ON.

**POLICY STATEMENT(S):**

When a patient wishes to leave the hospital against the advice of the attending physician or the patient's substitute decision-maker wishes to remove the patient from hospital against the advice of the attending physician, the following steps should be taken.

1. The attending physician or delegate is notified by the Health Care Provider.
2. The attending physician or delegate should explain clearly to the patient or patient's substitute decision-maker (SDM) the known, obvious and foreseeable risks, dangers, harms and injuries involved to his or her health and safety by not remaining in the hospital. If it is not possible for the attending physician or delegate to speak with the patient or substitute decision-maker prior to the patient's departure, the clinical nurse should provide this information to the patient or the substitute decision-maker to the best of his or her knowledge. This discussion should be documented on the patient's health record.
3. If, despite this discussion, the patient still wishes to leave or the patient's SDM still wishes to remove the patient against the advice of the attending physician or delegate, the attending physician, delegate or primary health care provider must instruct the patient or the patient's SDM that patient should return to the hospital if symptoms/conditions persist or worsen, and if the patient or patient's SDM has any concerns about patient's condition. Patient or patient's SDM must be provided an opportunity to ask questions. The discussion shall be documented in the patient's health record.
4. Where the patient leaves without informing the staff, the attending physician or primary health care provider will phone the patient and/or person identified as the person to contact in case of an emergency. If patient's whereabouts cannot be determined, THE CODE YELLOW (MISSING PATIENT) PROCEDURE IS TO BE INITIATED IMMEDIATELY.

**DEFINITION(S): N/A**

**REFERENCE(S): N/A**

**RELATED DOCUMENTS: N/A**

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**RESPONSIBILITY:**

Required Endorsements	Sponsor	Approval Authority
Risk Management Medicine Operations Surgical Operations Uxbridge Operations ED Operations Interprofessional Practice Quality and Patient Safety	Integrated Risk Management	Deputy Chief Financial Officer

**DOCUMENT HISTORY:**

Type	Individual/Committee	Date	Outcome
New		06/23/2004	Approved
Major Revision		08/27/2018	Approved
Minor Revision		09/07/2018	Approved
Reviewed; no change		09/22/2022	Approved

**APPENDICES: N/A**

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