



Clinical Staff Executive Committee

MEDICAL CENTER POLICY NO. 0102

A. SUBJECT: Discharges Against Medical Advice

B. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012 (R)

C. POLICY:

When an adult patient who is capable of decision making, insists on leaving the Medical Center, contrary to clinical advice or when the surrogate decision maker of an adult patient incapable of decision making, insists on taking the patient from the hospital against such advice, the physician or other licensed independent practitioner (LIP)¹ caring for the patient should make an effort to act in the best interest of the patient.

When the parents or legal guardians of a minor patient insist on taking the patient from the hospital contrary to the professional advice of the physician or other LIP, the physician or other LIP caring for the patient shall make an effort to act in the best interest of the patient.

D. PROCEDURE:

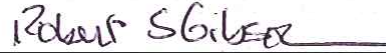
1. The physician or other LIP must attempt to dissuade the patient, surrogate, parent or legal guardian from such a course in the presence of a witness, pointing out the danger of leaving the hospital against advice.
2. If the physician's or other LIP's discussion does not dissuade the patient, surrogate, parent or legal guardian from his/her intention to leave the hospital, the physician or LIP shall discuss the situation with the attending physician.
3. If there is no change in the decision to leave the hospital, the physician or other LIP must request that the patient, surrogate, parent, or legal guardian complete and sign the "Against Medical Advice" form. If the patient, surrogate, parent, or legal guardian refuses to sign, the physician or other LIP shall note the refusal on the form.
4. If the patient appears to be a threat to her/himself or others, or is in imminent need of medical care and appears incapable of making an informed decision, a judicial detention and/or treatment order should be sought, per [Medical Center Policy No. 0140, "Judicial Treatment Orders"](#). If the patient is a minor, the requirements of [Medical Center Policy 0213, "Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation of Patients"](#) must be followed.

¹ For the purposes of this policy, licensed independent practitioner includes physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants

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5. If a patient leaves against medical advice, a Quality Report shall be completed by utilizing the automated reporting system, "QR Track".

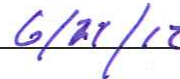
SIGNATURE:



Robert S. Gibson, M.D., President Clinical Staff



R. Edward Howell, CEO, UVA Medical Center



DATE:

Medical Center Policy No. 0102 (R)

Approved July 1984

Revised September 1993, March 1996, September 1999, June 2003, May 2006, June 2009, June 2012

Approved by the Patient Care Committee

Approved by Clinical Staff Executive Committee