

(FRONT)

A Code Walker is initiated when a patient leaves a unit without permission (elopement)

All staff members should be alert to the potential for patient elopement incidents. Below is a list of important elements of our patient elopement policy:

- Inpatients may not leave UNC Hospitals buildings prior to discharge.
- Inpatients must request permission from his or her nurse or the unit charge nurse in order to leave the unit.
- Patients authorized to leave the unit will be issued an off-unit pass to be visibly displayed.
- Any staff member observing a patient leaving the building must tactfully approach the patient to determine if they have been discharged. If the patient has not been discharged, staff members will escort the patient back to the unit. If the patient will not return to the unit, the staff member should contact the Hospital Police Dispatch Center (6-3686) to notify them of the circumstances. Hospital Police will notify the appropriate nursing unit and the nursing unit will follow-up with the patient regarding AMA discharge or other appropriate response or intervention.

What to do if a patient is believed to have left the unit without permission

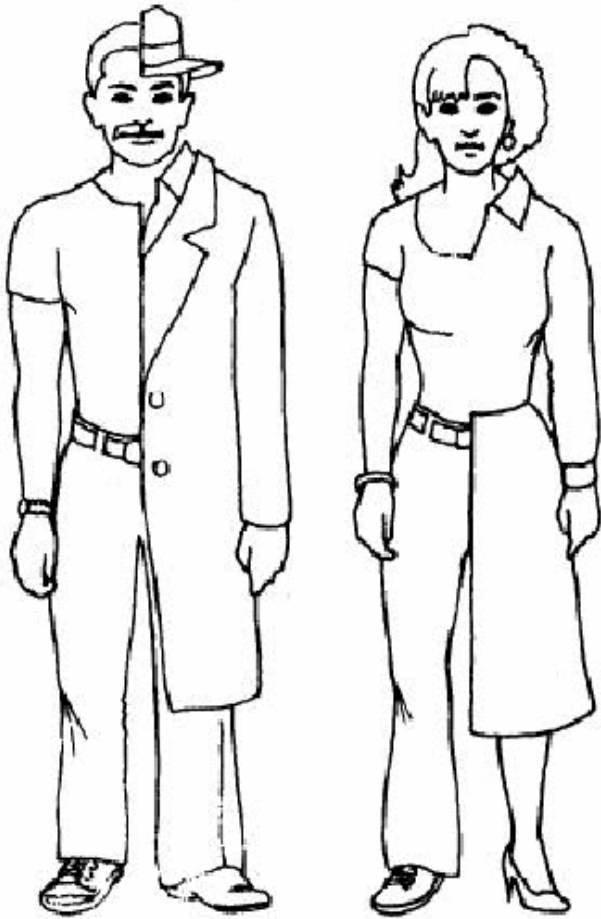
If a patient is believed to have eloped, the following actions should be taken immediately by the unit's staff

- Conduct a unit search
- If the patient is not found on the unit, staff should call Hospital Police Dispatch (6-3686) and request a "Code Walker Alert" be initiated
- The following information should be provided to dispatch:
 - First initial and last name of patient
 - Age
 - Race
 - Gender
 - Last location patient was seen
- Staff must also complete the Code Walker/Missing person form located on the reverse side of this sheet

What to do if the patient is not in your area

- Monitor area for the missing patient
- Position staff members to monitor possible points of exit
- If patient is found, attempt to escort them back to their unit
- If the patient resists, contact Hospital Police immediately
- Never endanger yourself or the patient

(BACK)
CODE WALKER / MISSING PERSON FORM

SEX	SPEECH PATTERN	SCARS	WEAPONS
HAIR			CLOTHING WORN
EYES			HAT
RACE			FACIAL HAIR
AGE			COAT
HEIGHT			PANTS
WEIGHT			SHOES

Type of Risk	Name of Physician
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Patient's Behavior			
Dementia	Traumatic Brain Injury	History of Alcohol or Drug Abuse	_____
History of elopement	Patient or Family Angry with Care and Threatened Elopement	Patient Has History of Wandering / smoking	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Patient's Location _____	Patient Last Seen _____		
Other Information:			