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Owner: *Christopher O'Connor: HCS-Sr Attorney*
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Police and Investigative Activities in Hospital

I. Description

Guidelines for responding to subpoenas and warrants, as well as managing law enforcement officials who contact the University of North Carolina Health Care System ("UNCHCS") for investigative activities.

II. Rationale

The following guidelines have been adopted in order to provide a consistent framework for handling subpoenas and warrants, as well as the investigative activities of law enforcement officials, while protecting the privacy of UNCHCS' patients, staff members, and employees as permitted by applicable law.

III. Policy

A. Subpoenas and Warrants

Staff members receiving subpoenas or warrants or receiving notification that they will be asked to testify in a civil or criminal legal action should obtain a completed authorization form from the patient or a court order prior to providing testimony or releasing any patient information. An oral order from a presiding judge during court testimony is sufficient to allow court testimony involving patient information. Contact the UNC Health Care System Legal Department at 984-974-3041 for guidance regarding release of information and testimony if you receive a subpoena or warrant. If UNC Hospitals, UNC Health Care System or any employee or contractor of UNC Health Care System is listed as a party to the legal action, the Legal Department should be notified immediately.

B. Law Enforcement Inquiries and Investigations

All public and private law enforcement and investigative officials wishing to conduct activities in the Hospital, including:

- Requests for information
- Interviews
- Serving subpoenas or warrants
- Investigations and arrests

in regard to any patient, staff member, employee or visitor in the Hospital shall be referred to the University of North Carolina Hospitals Police Department. The Hospitals Police Department will check

the validity of the person's credentials, obtain the proper clearances and make all necessary notifications so that the above activities may be conducted with the least possible disruption to the Hospital, patients, staff members, employees and visitors. No personal health information will be given or access to any individual granted without a court order or the written authorization of the individual involved, or without an exception as provided in UNCHCS Policy, [Release of PHI to Law Enforcement Officers](#).

IV. Related Policies

[Release of PHI to Law Enforcement Officers](#)

Attachments:

No Attachments

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
PolicyStat Administrator	Patricia Ness: Nurse Educator	11/2018
	Betty George: Chief Legal Counsel	11/2018
	Christopher O'connor: HCS-Sr Attorney	11/2018

Applicability

UNC Medical Center

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