



ELOPEMENT: PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

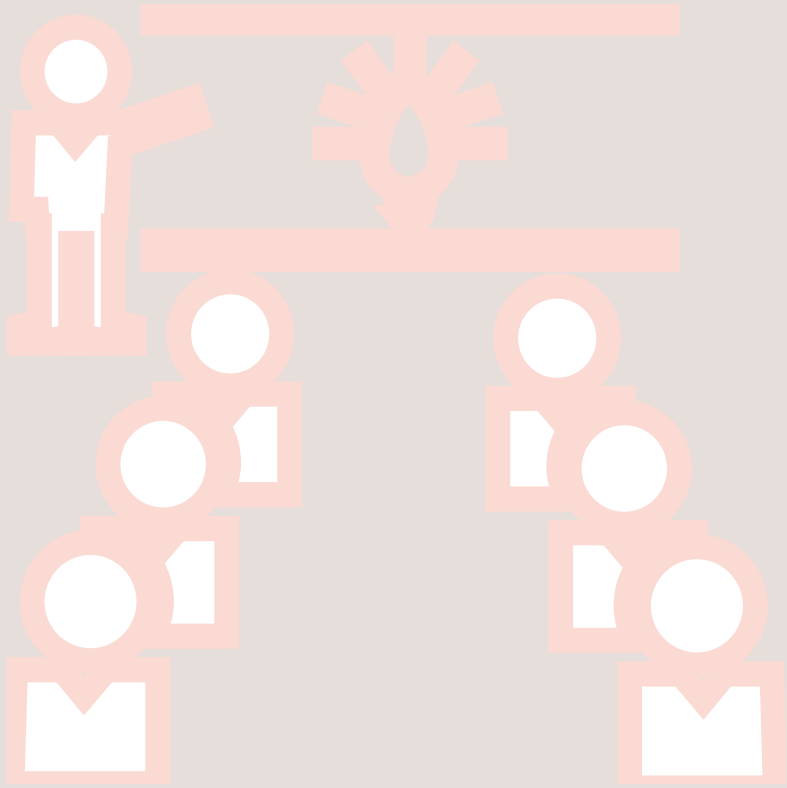
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LEGACY EMANUEL



Learning Objectives

1. Define Elopement.
2. Understand the elopement risks inherent in a locked environment.
3. Learn risk factors for elopement.
4. Learn how Unity mitigates risk for elopement.
5. Understand the risks inherent in the Therapeutic Garden, and the functioning of the Garden Pass Order.
6. Learn the Patient Transportation Staffing Ratio.
7. Learn the interventions used to mitigate elopement risk.
8. Learn the required documentation related to risk for elopement.
9. Understand the procedure utilized in the event of patient elopement.
10. Understand the necessary communication that is completed in the event of patient elopement.

DEFINING ELOPEMENT

Elopement *in the healthcare setting is legally defined as a patient who is incapable of adequately protecting themselves, and who* **departs the health care facility unsupervised and undetected.**

ELOPEMENT RISK

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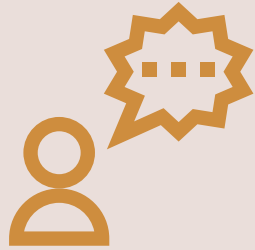


- *Unity Center for Behavioral Health is a **locked facility**.*
- *Clinicians at Unity care for patients who are often **unable to remain safe in the community**.*
- *Everyone must **take extra care** when travelling through the facility to **prevent elopement**.*

Patients who exhibit the below characteristics and historical features are at increased risk of elopement...



*A **history** of attempted or successful elopement.*



Demonstration of significant threats/ideations to elope



*Demonstration of **at risk behaviors**: frequently standing near secure doors, impersonating staff or visitors, threatening elopement.*



***Impulsivity** or anger about **involuntary status**, or **legal status**.*



*And/or the **clinical determination** of elopement risk by nursing staff or LIP (Provider) based on patient presentation.*

RISK IDENTIFICATION



ELOPEMENT PRECAUTIONS AND PREVENTION:

How we mitigate elopement risk...

- *Once the risk is identified, the **LIP or RN** will enter **Elopement Risk order** in the electronic health record (EHR).*
 - *An existing Elopement Risk order **may only be discontinued by a provider** after a multi-disciplinary team discussion.*
- *When moving through a locked door, **ensure door is clear of patients prior to opening** and stay until door is **completely closed**.*
- ***Conduct purposeful rounding** and observation practices.*



ELOPEMENT PRECAUTIONS AND PREVENTION:

Elopement risk and the Therapeutic Garden Group

- *Admitted patients at Unity have the **right to fresh air and greatly benefit from the Therapeutic Garden Group.***
- *The **Therapeutic Garden** is a high risk area for patient elopement.*
- *Patients must have a **Garden Pass Order** to attend Therapeutic Garden Group.*
 - *To mitigate risk, Garden passes are **not issued within the first 24 hours** of a patient admission to allow for in-person Provider assessment of potential risks.*
 - *If a provider has determined that the patient is **not at risk for elopement**, the patient may be issued a Garden Pass Order.*



ELOPEMENT PRECAUTIONS AND PREVENTION:

Patient Transportation Staffing Ratio:

- *Upon admission, or transfer of admitted patients throughout the facility:*
 - **1:5** One staff to five patients, *never* less than two staff.
Never < 2
- *Upon Discharge:*
 - *Psychiatric Emergency Services and Adult Inpatient: Minimum one staff must accompany patient out of secure area.*
 - *Child and Adolescent Inpatient: Minimum one staff escorts patient out of secure area to legal guardian and/or secure transport staff.*

KEY POINT:
*This minimum
staffing requirement
applies whenever
transporting an
admitted patient
throughout Unity.*

1:5
Never < 2

1:5

Never < 2

Transportation Staffing Ratio: Considerations...

- *The number of staff transporting a patient may be increased based upon clinical judgement.*
- **Legal status does not affect** *the minimum staffing ratio for patient transportation.*
- *Who can transport patients: all Unity **staff** who have completed orientation*
 - contractors and visitors do not qualify.
- **Security staff are not required** *for patient transportation throughout the facility but may be utilized at clinician discretion if a patient poses a risk to safety during transfer.*
- *Staff will utilize **specific routes** to transport patients to and from the garden ([see map here](#)).*



ELOPEMENT PRECAUTIONS AND PREVENTION:

Once a patient is identified as at-risk for elopement and an Elopement Risk Order is placed, the following interventions may be utilized...



Required Interventions:

- **Garden Pass order discontinuation:** *The LIP or RN will discontinue any preexisting Garden Pass order.*
- A patient with an **active Elopement Risk order** may **not receive a Garden Pass order** and may not **attend therapeutic garden groups, or therapeutic groups on another unit**

(See 902.5111 Therapeutic Group Guidelines for additional information)



Optional Interventions:

- *The patient may be provided **green colored scrubs** to wear.*
- *The **patient room** may be located as close as possible to the **unit nurses' station**.*
- *The patient's **ordered level of observation** may be **Increased** (if clinically indicated).*

ELOPEMENT RISK INTERVENTIONS

ELOPEMENT RISK DOCUMENTATION

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Documenting the Elopement Risk Order:

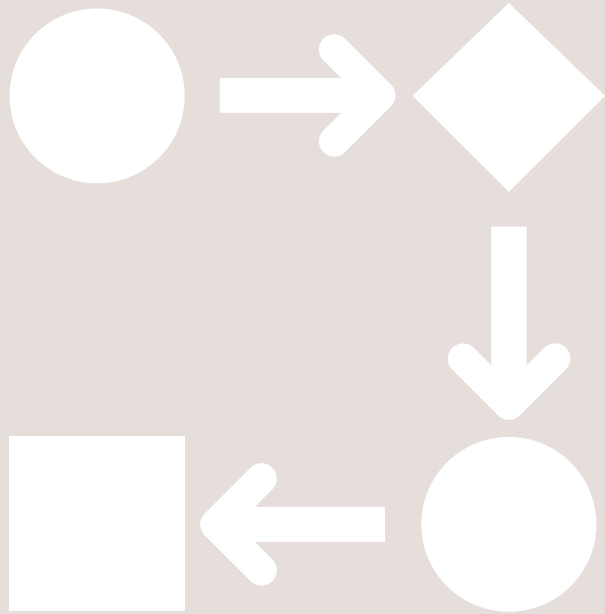
- *If the RN places Elopement Risk order: the **LIP** must be notified within one hour. The RN will document this provider notification of critical result in the EHR.*
- *The placement of an Elopement Risk order results in the **immediate discontinuation of a preexisting Garden Pass order**. The RN or LIP will discontinue the Garden Pass order.*
- *Documentation of related elopement risk **interventions** will be entered in to the EHR.*

Elopement Risk Order Discontinuation:

- *The Elopement Risk order will be discontinued in the EHR. The Elopement Risk orders will be reviewed daily and maintained by the LIP.*
- ***Discontinuation of Elopement Risk orders may ONLY occur upon the order of the LIP***



In the event of patient elopement...



POST-ELOPEMENT PROCEDURE

1. **Notify Security** *immediately*.
2. **Notify Nursing Supervisor** *immediately* (who will notify up the chain of command).
3. **Notify LIP.**
4. **Notification to outside parties:** *The Nursing Supervisor or designee will...*
 1. **Notify Law Enforcement** (regardless of legal status)
 2. **Outside party notification by patient legal status:**
 1. **Involuntary patients:** *The Nursing Supervisor or designee will communicate the elopement event with the following...*
 1. **Notification of Mental Illness:** *Notify Involuntary Commitment Program (ICP).*
 2. **14-Day Diversion:** *Notify Involuntary Commitment Program (ICP).*
 3. **Court Committed:** *Notify commitment monitor.*
 2. **Voluntary adult patients:** *If patient has a legal guardian, notify legal guardian.*
 3. **Minors:** *Notify legal guardian.*
5. **Discuss with Leadership** on length of time to **reserve** the patient's bed placement.

KEY POINTS

KEY POINT: Contacting Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement will be contacted in the event of an elopement regardless of patient legal status. *If releasing information to Law Enforcement, follow 700.27 Release of Information to Law Enforcement*

KEY POINT: Code Amber

Code Amber *is a term to communicate known or suspected abduction, elopement, or lost/missing infant/child/adolescent.*

In the event of a Code Amber: follow 200.08 Code Amber: Abducted, Missing, Eloped, or Lost Infant/Child/Adolescent Response Plan.

If a patient follows staff to the door, and/or is rushing at the door

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Stop and redirect
the patient



Call Security as
needed



Notify charge RN



The LIP and/or RN will take into account the presence and severity of the risk factors when determining a patient's elopement risk. If a patient is determined to be an elopement risk, the LIP and/or RN will place an elopement risk order.

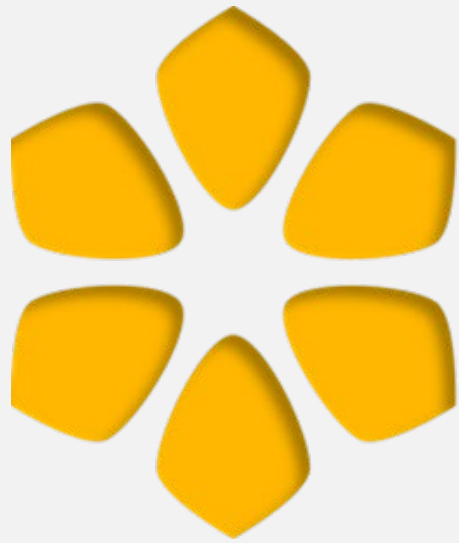
POST-ELOPEMENT DOCUMENTATION

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The following documentation will occur in the event that an admitted patient elopes or attempts to elope:

- Document *a progress note describing the event.*
- Document *an ICARE describing the event.*
- Elopement Risk Order Management:
 - *If the patient already has an Elopement Risk order:*
 - edit existing Elopement Risk order to indicate the date of elopement event.
 - *If the patient does not have an Elopement Risk order:*
 - Place new Elopement Risk order and indicate the date of elopement event within the order (in comments)





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