



Subject PATIENTS SIGNING OUT OF HOSPITAL AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE		No. II.A.08	Page 1 of 1
Content Expert/Coordinating Department(s) CRITICAL CARE ANM	Prior Issue Date 2/10	Issued 12/13	

Policy

Patients must sign their own release when leaving the hospital against the advice of their physician.

Procedure

1. Notify attending physician that the patient is leaving without consent.
2. The seriousness of the situation must be explained to the patient by a physician/physician representative.
3. The patient is required to sign the form on the reverse side of General Consent Form, releasing the hospital of all responsibility.
4. Assistant Nurse Manager/Administrative Coordinator should be notified of any patient signing out against medical advice.
5. If a psychiatric patient is indicating they want to leave and it is felt that they may be harmful to themselves or others, the physician is to be notified to facilitate the appropriate paperwork (i.e. certification and petition)
6. A Patient Safety and Quality Improvement (PSQI) should be completed and routed to the Quality Improvement Department.

POPULATION SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS:

Under 18 cannot sign themselves out against medical advice unless they are an emancipated minor.