

MANAGE YOUR RISK

Elopement Prevention and Response Checklist

ELOPEMENT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE:			
Item	Yes	No	Not Applicable/Comments
ASSESSMENT			
1. Are resident assessments begun before admission, and do they identify potential wanderers?			
2. Are these assessments used to identify a possible cause of wandering?			
3. Are family members/caregivers queried as to any history of wandering or elopement from home or another facility?			
4. Since the majority of elopements occur in the first few days following admission, are residents observed more closely during the first week?			
5. Are requirements for observation, assessment and reassessment incorporated into the plan of care and documented in the clinical record?			
ENVIRONMENT			
6. Are exits monitored during shift changes, when residents might slip away unnoticed?			
7. Are there regular checks for the presence of all residents several times on each shift?			
8. Are stairwells and doors alarmed at all times, or are electronic sensors in place?			
9. Do staff have a clear view of any door that is not alarmed?			
10. Are supply closets & roof access doors kept locked?			

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11. Do locked exit doors automatically unlock when a fire alarm is activated?			
12. Are visual cues, such as “stop” signs and arrows, used so that residents can easily find their way or be redirected from exit doors?			
13. Are residents who are at risk for wandering placed in rooms away from stairwells and exit doors?			
POLICIES/PROCEDURES			
14. Is there a written policy or statement about how the staff should manage the wandering resident?			
15. Are there written protocols for how staff should respond to audible bed and door alarms?			
16. Is there a written elopement prevention plan?			
17. Is there a written elopement response plan?			
18. Do procedures for missing residents include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A thorough search of the unit and other immediate areas? b. Use of an internal alert system to inform all staff that someone is missing and to implement immediate response procedures? c. A systematic search, with a building floor plan, of all areas of the facility? d. Notification of management, family members, and the attending physician? e. Notification of local police with a description of the resident and other pertinent information? f. Steps to take when the resident is discovered (e.g., notifications, medical evaluation, etc.)? g. Completion of an event report? 			
19. Are procedures reviewed periodically and revised as needed?			
RESPONSE PROCEDURES			
20. Do all staff know how to initiate the protocol when they discover that a resident is missing?			
21. Are there defined roles for staff?			
22. Is a debriefing held after any attempted or completed elopement to identify opportunities for improvement?			

Item	Yes	No	Not Applicable/Comments
STAFF EDUCATION/TRAINING			
23. Does new employee orientation include training in identifying residents at risk to wander as well as techniques for managing wandering?			
24. Is there ongoing staff training on the appropriate use of electronic alarms and resident-specific tracking devices?			
25. Is the training provided for night and weekend staff as well as for agency and temporary staff?			