



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

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MEDICAL CENTER
OPERATING POLICY

CATEGORY:	CLINICAL MANAGEMENT	CODE:	M-131
SUBJECT:	PATIENTS LEAVING AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE	EFFECTIVE:	07/2017
		REPLACES:	10/2015
		PAGE:	1 of 1

1. Staff of LLUMC shall respect the right of patients who have capacity to make health care decisions for themselves to determine whether or not they will submit to medical treatment, even against the advice of the physician.
2. If the patient lacks legal authority (e.g., a minor) or the capacity to make health care decisions for him or herself, the patient shall have the right to have a legal representative make the decision to stay or leave.

Note: Legal Counsel should be consulted if there is a question as to who has the appropriate legal authority.
3. If the patient or his or her legal representative makes the decision to be discharged prior to completion of treatment or contrary to medical advice, the physician shall first attempt to provide the patient or the legal representative with information regarding why continued hospitalization is recommended, what the risks and potential consequences of leaving are, and what alternatives are available, so the patient or legal representative can make an informed decision.
4. Administrative Procedure M-131.A shall be followed in the event that a patient communicates the desire or intention to leave against medical advice (AMA).

APPROVED: Hospital Executive Leadership, LLUMC Chief Executive Officer, LLUMC Chief Nursing Officer, LLUMC Medical Staff President



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INITIATOR OF ACTION	ACTION
Clinical Nurse	<p>IF THE PATIENT (OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE) STATES THE INTENT TO LEAVE:</p> <p>1. Notifies the practitioner and Charge Nurse of the patient's intent to leave.</p>
Attending Physician/Designee	<p>2. Gives information (reference par. 3 of policy) to the patient or legal representative in person or on the phone if possible.</p>
Physician and Clinical Nurse/Charge Nurse	<p>IF PATIENT (OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE) DECIDES TO LEAVE AFTER PHYSICIAN GIVES INFORMATION:</p> <p>3. Complete the designated sections of the "AMA" form and obtain the patient's or legal representative's signature, indicating informed consent.</p>
Clinical Nurse/Charge Nurse	<p>IF THE PATIENT (OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE) OPTS TO LEAVE BEFORE THE PHYSICIAN CAN COMMUNICATE THE RISKS AND ALTERNATIVES:</p> <p>4. Requests that the patient or legal representative sign the "AMA" form</p> <p>NOTE: If the patient or legal representative refuses to sign, documents that fact and any other pertinent information in the medical record.</p>