

Elopement Drills

A comprehensive Risk Management and Resident Safety Program includes a current plan to reduce the risk of resident elopement. Elopement Drills are designed to support team knowledge and skills in responding to a missing resident. Conduct elopement drills on each shift at least two times per year. Consider outside agency participation for some of the drills (e.g., local law enforcement).

What is Needed to Conduct an Effective Elopement Drill:

- A current policy on Elopement Management and current procedures for Missing Resident Response that are reviewed during employee orientation and at least annually.
- A plan for conducting the Elopement Drill
- An Elopement Drill Evaluation Form
- A formal review process for the Elopement Drill Response (e.g., Quality Committee or Safety Committee) and a plan for corrective action as needed

Elopement Drill Plan

- Conduct elopement drills at different times during the day and on different shifts. While opening an emergency door and confirming the timeliness of staff response is a good practice, these checks should not be counted as an employment drill.
- Select a staff member, object (e.g., CPR mannequin) or other willing person to participate in the drill. Communicate the name of the person or object selected at the start of the drill.
- Call the drill per facility policy/procedure; notify outside agencies (as applicable) that a drill is being called.
- A designated staff member (e.g., charge nurse, DON) should coordinate the search process and make assignments (depending on the shift, staff may have more than one assignment). For example:
 - One person checks the sign-out log
 - One staff person is assigned to check one side of each hall including locked supply areas, unlocked areas, and resident rooms (e.g., under beds, showers, bathrooms, closets). A map is used to cross off areas checked
 - One or more people are assigned to check courtyards
 - One or more people are assigned to check common areas inside the building
 - One or more people are assigned to check stairwells and building operational areas (e.g., laundry, kitchen)
 - Two people are assigned to check the outside of the building starting at one location and going opposite directions meeting back at the central location
 - One person is assigned to check security camera footage (as applicable)
- Communication with administration, family, outside agencies, etc., is discussed as part of the elopement drill process
- An Elopement Drill Evaluation Form is completed after each drill.

Elopement Drill Evaluation:

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Individual Conducting the Drill: _____

Was the Drill Called Per Procedure? Yes No

Did Employees Respond According to Procedure? Yes No

Did the Designated Staff Member Make Appropriate Employee Assignments? Yes No

Comments:

Were Internal Communications Completed According to Policy/Procedure? Yes No

Did Staff Complete the Area Search Maps Per Procedure and in a Timely Manner? Yes No

Were External Communications Noted at the Appropriate Times According to Policy/Procedure (Actual Calls May Not Be Placed During Some Drills)? Yes No

Comments:

Was a Current Picture and Physical Description of the Resident Readily Available? Yes No

Was the Drill Appropriately Concluded When the Individual Was Located? Yes No

Comments:

For Actual Elopements:

Was an Incident Report Completed? Yes No

Does the Medical Record Include a Resident Assessment After Return to the Facility? Yes No

Was Communication with the Family and Medical Provider Documented in the Medical Record? Yes No

Was the Care Plan Appropriately Updated? Yes No

Comments:

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