

PROCEDURE FOR: Discharge: Against Medical Advice (AMA)

- POLICY:**
1. No patient may be discharged AMA unless he/she has been evaluated by an Attending Physician at least once during hospitalization.
 2. Once admitted and initially evaluated by an Attending Physician, a patient must be seen and evaluated by a Resident or Attending Physician if he/she requests AMA discharge.

PROCEDURE:

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>POINTS OF EMPHASIS</u>
1. If the patient refuses to stay in the hospital and is <u>not committable</u> , he/she signs the Against Medical Advice (AMA) form (HCH368), which is witnessed by the Physician.	1. Refer to HAM 07-006 Discharge Against Medical Advice.
2. Should the competent patient refuse to sign the form, the form may be signed by two persons who: a. Heard the patient's verbal refusal, and b. Saw the patient leave.	

DOCUMENTATION: A progress note and a *Patient Safety Net* report to document any AMA discharge must be written by the Physician and Nurse involved in the situation.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1974

REVISION DATES: 1977, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1988, 1989, 12/90, 12/97, 1/00, 10/00, 10/03, 6/06, 7/08