

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL**

LEFT WITHOUT BEING SEEN (LWBS)

Effective Date:	04/02	Policy No:	AD052
Cross Referenced:		Origin:	Nursing Department
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SCOPE

Medical Staff and Nursing Departments of Hackettstown Regional Medical Center (HRMC).

PURPOSE

To outline the steps to follow when a patient makes the decision to leave prior to screening, treatment or disposition.

DEFINITION

Any patient that has been seen by the triage nurse but left prior to an evaluation by the Emergency Department physician or that has been seen by the Emergency Department physician but left without notice before treatment or disposition, is deemed as an elopement.

POLICY

1. The following will be documented:
 - Time of triage;
 - Time seen by the physician;
 - If observed, time patient left Emergency Department;
 - Time patient departed or eloped prior to treatment or disposition;
 - Documentation will include inability to obtain signed AMA form.
2. In the event the patient leaves prior to an evaluation by the physician and does not notify any staff member of leaving, the R.N. shall document the elopement of the patient in the nursing notes. An incident report shall be initiated for follow up.
3. Quarterly the number of elopements will be reviewed at the Emergency Department Physicians' Meeting.