

Section: Division of Nursing

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PROCEDURE

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HACKETTSTOWN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

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NEWBORN/4 SOUTH

(Scope)

TITLE: RESPONSE PLAN TO IN PATIENT HOSTAGE SITUATION

PURPOSE: To initiate an immediate response to hostage situations in order to aid in quick recovery of hostage as well as minimizing danger to other patients.

LEVEL: Interdependent

SUPPORTIVE

DATA: Although incidents are low, the effect of hostage taking is devastating to parents, staff and hospital reputation

CONTENT:

1. As soon as discovery of incident is known, Dial 6000, the operator will page **Dr. Strong**.
2. Nurse from the unit will:
 - a) Remove patient's and visitors from immediate area
 - b) Notify all nursing staff
 - c) Attempt to ascertain who is in the room (i.e. abductor, and number of hostages) and brief descriptions by questioning witnesses.
3. Security will notify police.
4. Once security is present nurses will:
 - a) Close off the unit to all incoming visitors
 - b) Determine if other patients and visitors should be removed from unit and the best place for relocation
5. Administration will notify additional law enforcement if needed.
6. Risk Management will notify Princeton Insurance Co. **Note:** No hospital employee is to give out any information – refer to public relations.
7. Remove relatives/witnesses and other involved persons to another room providing one on one care using staff members known to them.
8. Nurse will screen all phone calls to involved persons (to protect from media and unwanted personal calls).
9. All staff members present or on duty at time of incident will:
 - a) Put into writing all memories of event and any description they recall.
 - b) Remain in the hospital until after police have had an opportunity to question them, even if this means over staffing.
10. Attempt to reassure relatives and involved persons present and keep them as informed as possible.
11. Be aware of staff reactions and be sensitive to their needs.
12. If at any time the incident escalates to an abduction, threat protocol should be initiated.
13. When incident is over and abductor is in custody and has left the building, the operator may announce, **Dr. Strong – all clear**.
14. Counseling or referrals to social services may be provided to patient and family as needed.