Detaining Patients
Teaching Points for Inpatient RN, LVN, UAP, AHP

- Patients must have the capacity to understand the ramifications of leaving the hospital either temporarily or against medical advice, making arrangements for transportation to their intended destination and self-care upon discharge.
- A patient is presumed to have decisional capacity and is defined as having the ability to understand the risks and benefits of the recommended treatment and available alternatives.
- The attending physician will assess the patient to determine if s/he has decision making capacity.
- A patient with a temporary LPS conservatorship has been deemed unable to make treatment decisions related to mental illness; the patient may not leave the facility against medical advice without the expressed consent of their conservator.
- It is the responsibility of UCSDH clinical staff to ensure a safe discharge plan is in place, especially for patients who lack decision making capacity.
- UCSDH Security Services is a resource and can provide assistance if patients without decision making capacity or on a hold, attempt to leave.

Source: Cristina Cazares-Machado MSN, RN, BS; MCP 303.5
MCP 300.7 Psychiatric Consultation – When and how to Request One
MCP 303.5 Patient Leaving Against Medical Advice, Patient Elopement and Vulnerable Patients
MCP 300.9 72 hour/14 day hold
MCP 561.1 Sentinel Event and Significant Adverse Events
MCP 530.1 Medical Ethics Consultation