A new patient arrives on the unit. Care Team reviews Welcome Letter with patient.

Is the patient high risk per “Patients Leaving the Unit Independently” policy?

- Yes
- No

- Contact the patient on cell phone.
- Attempt to contact the patient’s emergency contact.
- Notify Security to assist locating the patient.
- Notify charge nurse, nurse manager, physician, and appropriate admins.

Does the patient leave the unit?

- Yes
- No

- Continue care as usual.

Does the patient return within an hour?

- Yes
- No

- Attending physician shall consider discharge AMA if there are no imminent risks to patient safety.

Is the patient high risk due to substance or opioid abuse?

- Yes
- No

- Hold patient care conference. Review and outline the expectations.
- Patient signs Patient Safety agreement.

- Hold patient care conference. Review and outline the expectations.
- Patient signs Patient Safety agreement AND Opioid Safety agreement.

Does the patient comply with the Patient Safety and/or Opioid Safety Agreement?

- Yes
- No

- Continue care as usual.
- Engage Legal, Critical Event Officer, ADC, and Attending Physician to discuss next steps, including:
  - Discharge AMA if appropriate.
  - Make potential adjustments to plan of care.
  - Communicate visitor restrictions.

Additional Resources:
UH MedSurg Welcome Letter – Revised April 2018
Patients Leaving the Unit Independently (Policy No. 00195574-1)
Opioid Treatment Agreement (MC202643)
Patient Safety Agreement (MC202552)