



Monthly Emergency Management Training

March 2023



CODE PINK

What is a Code Pink?

A Code Pink is the emergency code used by Vista Health System to alert staff that an infant or child is missing or has been abducted. The alert is paged overhead as a *Security Alert - Code Pink*, followed by the location and any pertinent descriptors. Announcement of a Code Pink activates a pre-defined set of staff actions to quickly locate the missing infant or child.

Infant vs Child when we refer to Code Pink?

Although our policies do not define a specific age to differentiate Infant from Child, in most hospital settings, for Code Pink, an infant is considered anyone less than 12 months of age and a child is defined as 1 year up to the age of 15.

Characteristics / Behaviors of a Code Pink abductor:

- A potential abductor or suspicious person may be someone you are familiar with.
- Typically female, frequently overweight, ranges in age from 14 to 45 and may indicate that she has lost a baby or is unable to have a baby.
- The percentage of non-white abductors is slightly higher than that of white abductors with the race of the infant/child frequently a reflection of the abductor.
- Most likely attempts abduction during broad daylight, lives in the community where the abduction takes place and plans the abduction.
- Asks questions related to physical layout of the 2nd Floor or other units, hospital practices or schedules.
- May attempt to impersonate a nurse or other healthcare professional and may use stolen hospital attire and/or ID badges.
- Be aware of diversion tactics such as a disturbance elsewhere in the hospital by a “helper” or pulling a fire alarm.

What are the Time Critical actions expected from Vista Health System’s staff in a Code Pink event?

1. Dial “3111” immediately requesting a Code Pink with the location and any pertinent descriptors. Operators will overhead page three times “Security Alert + Code Pink” with the location and pertinent descriptors. *Note: In addition, Vista Lindenhurst Ambulatory Care Center should also dial 911 immediately. VPG Offices and Vista Imaging Center should dial 911 immediately.*
2. New Family Center staff will immediately search the entire unit doing a head count of all infants. If the event occurs in another department, staff in that department will immediately search their area.
3. Security and the Emergency Response Team will immediately activate a search of the entire facility, interior and exterior.
4. All staff will assist in making sure all exits, elevators, stairwells, and doors are secured. If the closest exit is already secured, move to another location. Staff will screen **EVERYONE** attempting to pass.
 - a. The abductor may be someone you already know.
 - b. Large bags, backpacks & bulky clothing must be checked.
 - c. Infants are never to be carried and are to be secured in a carrier.
5. If a person refuses a bag check or exits around you, do not physically engage and call Security giving a detailed description of your location and the subject. If possible and safe, follow the person.
 1. Vista East: Inside: dial 4508, dial 5026 or on Ascom press & hold 9; Outside: dial (847) 782-4508.
 2. Lindenhurst VACC, Vista Imaging or VPG Office: Call 911

Cancelling a Code Pink:

Once the determination has been made to cancel a Code Pink, the Nursing Supervisor or Hospital Administrator will contact Communications and request an *All Clear*. Security Alert-Code Pink-All Clear will be overhead paged three times. With this announcement, all staff will resume back to their normal work and active search of the infant/child can stop.

For More Information, see the *Vista Health Code Pink Response Plan- Infant Abduction* policy on PolicyStat.