



# UPDATE:

## Code Yellow (EMER-70)

**Code Yellow – Search** is a Hospital-wide response to search for a high-risk patient (age 16 years or older) that is missing from within the Hospital.

### What's new?

- Clarified that in **all** instances of a missing patient:
  - preliminary area search is required.
  - we must attempt to call them using the contact information provided.
  - we must page them to return to the unit.
- **Use eObservation to submit area search results within 10 minutes** of an overhead announcement versus previous process of notification to Admitting.
- Patient Safety Reports must include a rationale for categorizing a patient as high risk when a Search has been called.
- All Code Yellow Searches will desist at the 60 minute mark if not cleared before.
- External buildings response edited to match other recent policy updates.

### Process Reminders:

- Maintain up-to-date Code Yellow sub-plans.
- If a **high risk** patient does not return to their unit the primary healthcare worker calls Switchboard (55) to activate Code Yellow – Search and provide as much information as possible about the patient.
- When uncertain if a patient is high risk review the policy (Appendix 1) and discuss with the MRP and/or Unit Manager, or Administrative Coordinator (after hours) for shared decision.
- If the patient is found, notify Switchboard (55) and assist with returning the patient as required.

If information indicates the **patient is not high risk** or there is a reasonable explanation for their absence (e.g., not on Hospital property) **do not initiate Code Yellow – Search.**



### REMINDER: Code Yellow Check

is initiated to support the identification of a wandering patient (age 16 or older ) found outside the Hospital who appears to be in distress and in need of assistance.

Any questions contact  
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# Updated Response Algorithm

## Code Yellow - Search Process Map

