

Confidential Patient Status with Police Custody

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin needs to be a safe place for your child and family as well as our staff. There are times when it is best that a patient's identity is kept private while in the hospital. The hospital lists your child as confidential. A patient may be listed as confidential if they are a victim or suspected victim of violence or abuse, if legal issues are present and when a parent or child is a public figure. Even if you say it is OK, the media will not be able to come inside the hospital. The hospital staff will go to great lengths to keep your child safe. Strict security rules must be followed.

- 1. Do not tell anyone where your child is unless they really need to know.**
- 2. When you enter the hospital lobby, get a parent, grandparent or visitor pass from the Welcome Desk. They will ask you for an ID with a current photo. Have it ready each time you visit the hospital and get your pass.**
- A password is set by the parent or legal guardian. If you need to write it down, keep it safe and secure. To keep your child safe, only share your child's legal first and last name and the password with the few people that need to visit. Tell these people not to share the password with anyone unless they talk to you first.
- 4. The password and your child's legal first and last name must be given when anyone calls or visits. The staff cannot ask for this information. It must be given by the caller or the visitor without being asked.** If you or someone forgets to offer the legal name and password, they will not be able to visit or talk to your child. They will be told, "I'm sorry we do not have any information about that person. Please call the family."
- If a parent or legal guardian wants an update about their child's condition, more information will be required.
- 6. The police decide who can and cannot visit and they must be on the patient's visitor list.** The doctor, nurse, or social worker does not have the power to change this unless there is a medical emergency.
- The police decide if TVs and phones can be used.
- Your child's name will not be listed or posted in any public area. No one will be told where your child is. No deliveries will be accepted for your child. You will need to call the unit number to talk with your child on the phone. Unit number: _____
- If your child moves to another unit or if their security needs change, the confidential patient status will be reviewed.
- The nurse will check for blood flow and check the skin on your child's legs and arms when handcuffs or shackles are used. The nurse will give any care that is needed when your child's arms and legs are not free. Privacy is given during care.
11. Call the police directly if you have questions about the custody of your child.

ALERT: If you have any questions or concerns or if your child has special health care needs that were not covered by this information check with your child's nurse or social worker.

This teaching sheet is meant to provide you with additional information about your child's care. Diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up should be provided by your health care