

CODE WALKER

OHSU is committed to mitigating risks for wandering cognitively impaired patients and for responding appropriately if an event occurs. All OHSU Healthcare workforce members must respond to a Code Walker activation, appropriate to their role.

What should I do if a patient identified as cognitively impaired is missing?

- Contact the Charge Nurse or supervisor and conduct quick search (no more than 5 minutes).

When do I contact the Department of Public Safety (DPS)?

- If the patient is not found, the Charge Nurse or supervisor will contact Dispatch at 503.494.4444 and inform them that a cognitively impaired patient is missing.
 - Include any available details about the patient's appearance, clothing, behavior, location last seen, whether they are on a hold or otherwise involuntary, and other information that might aid in the search.
- Dispatch will send an officer to the unit to coordinate a more extensive search.
- Notify Dispatch if the patient is found.

Who can authorize a Code Walker activation?

- DPS will inform Dispatch of the need for Code Walker activation, as appropriate.

What do I do when I hear a Code Walker has been broadcast?

- Be on alert for the patient matching the description.
- Relay any additional information to the Charge Nurse, supervisor, DPS officer, Administrator on Duty (AOD) or designee.
- Notify Dispatch at 503.494.4444 with information or if the patient is found.

Where can I get more information about Code Walker?

- Additional information is available in the **Missing Cognitively Impaired Adult (Code Walker) Policy** located on the Healthcare Policy Database at <https://ohsu.ellucid.com/documents/view/365>.
- For additional questions, please contact the DPS non-emergency phone number at 503-494-7744.



The Joint Commission - Environment of Care Standards guide OHSU in this material. The Environment of Care Committee offers this tool to help remind employees of safety polices and best practices. Please post or share this information with staff.

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