Flowchart: process to return a person who has absconded while under an Emergency Examination Authority

Person on an EEA absconds

Is this an emergency due to time-critical immediate risk to others or to the patient?  
Yes

1. Clinician responsible for the patient to call 000 and ask for urgent police assistance to locate and return the person
2. Inform police of the circumstances and stress the immediate risks. Outline why the person’s behaviour may pose an immediate risk to: themselves; other specified people; or the public at large.
3. Give the police a description of the person.
4. Call the local Police Communications Centre and repeat the information above that has already been provided to the 000 operator.

No

Try the least restrictive option. Unless there is a risk that the person may harm themselves or others, clinical staff must make reasonable attempts to contact the person and encourage them to return to the service voluntarily. Document in section 11 of the Authority to Transport Person who Absconds form what steps were taken to locate and communicate with the person.

Has the patient returned voluntarily?  
Yes

Continue with the EEA. The period of detention under the Emergency Examination Authority recommences

No

Try the least restrictive option. Unless there is a risk that the person may harm themselves or others, clinical staff must make reasonable attempts to contact the person and encourage them to return to the service voluntarily. Document in section 11 of the Authority to Transport Person who Absconds form what steps were taken to locate and communicate with the person.

Can an Authorised Person other than a Police Officer return the person to the healthcare facility?  
Yes

Person in charge of facility (or their delegate) authorises an Authorised Person other than a Police Officer to return the person who has absconded.

The person in charge of facility (or their delegate) completes the Authority to Transport Person who Absconds form and checks the box to authorise an authorised person other than a Police Officer.

Local procedures are to be followed to communicate the authorisation to the relevant Authorised Person.

No

Has the patient returned voluntarily?  

Yes

Continue with the EEA. The period of detention under the Emergency Examination Authority recommences

No

Person in charge of facility (or their delegate) requests a Police Officer to return the person who has absconded.

The Person in charge of facility (or their delegate) completes the Authority to Transport Person who Absconds form and checks the box to request a Police Officer to return the person who has absconded

Can an Authorised Person other than a Police Officer return the person to the healthcare facility?  

Yes

The Authorised Person requests police assistance, completes the Request for Police Assistance form

No

Follow the process to facilitate (by a Police Officer) return of the person who has absconded

1. Telephone the local Police Communications Centre to obtain a QCAD number
2. Write the QCAD number on the form and ensure all sections of the form have been filled in and that the form is signed
3. Email or fax the completed form back to the local Police Communications Centre (email preferred)
4. Email the form to the Warrant Bureau – QPS (email address in Outlook) warrant.bureau@police.qld.gov.au
5. Receive confirmation receipt email from the Warrant Bureau
6. Telephone the local Police Communications Centre to confirm that they have received the form and to provide any additional information if required
7. Follow local processes to also notify the local police station if required/recommended

The person who has absconded is returned to the public sector health service facility.

Continue with the EEA

The period of detention under the Emergency Examination Authority recommences