

**Title: PHYSICIAN DISMISSAL BY PATIENT**

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Location: Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJPMC)		Department: Medical Staff Services

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**POLICY:**

1. If a patient or their representative (if the patient is unable to make decisions for themselves), wish to terminate their relationship with a physician:
  - A. If physician is a consultant: contact the primary physician so that he/she can discuss various options with the representative.
  - B. If physician is the primary physician: the patient or their representative must obtain a new physician prior to discharging the present physician.
  - C. Patient/family may be referred to 1-866-SJPMC-4-U or may select a physician using the phone book available in the patient room.
2. If a patient or their representative is unable to obtain a new physician, it is the responsibility of the department chair to assign that responsibility to an appropriate member of the medical staff department based on the clinical privileges needed to appropriately care for that patient.
3. This would apply to a specialist if the patient does not have a primary care physician and needs the expertise of that particular specialty that the terminated physician represents.
4. In the absence of the department chair, the President of the Medical Staff shall appropriately assign that responsibility to a member of the medical staff.

**References/Standards:**

- Nursing Policy: PHYSICIAN, ACQUIRING FOR A PATIENT
- Policy Origin Date: November 2008
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