

Title: Holding Orders - Patients admitted through the Emergency Department

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POLICY:

1. Address the need for initial holding orders for admissions through the Emergency Department after the attending physician has accepted the patient for admission and accepts responsibility for that patient's care.

PROCEDURE:

- A. Any initial holding orders written by the Emergency Department physician are intended to serve as a temporary bridge while awaiting the arrival of the admitting physician and as such shall expire in 8 hours or at 7:00 a.m. whichever comes first.
- B. Orders written by the Emergency Department physician are not comprehensive admitting orders as emergency physicians do not hold admitting privileges. The admitting physician assumes full and complete responsibility for the patient's inpatient care as soon as the admitting physician or their covering physician accepts the patient for care and the patient's arrival to the inpatient unit.
- C. Initial holding orders are intended to allow initial inpatient treatment to begin while awaiting the arrival of the admitting physician. Initial holding orders should include basic orders, such as diet, activity, admitting diagnosis, IV fluids, and medications that the ED physician believes are required for the initial care.
- D. Medication reconciliation remains the responsibility of the admitting physician.
- E. Nursing staff from the patient's inpatient unit are encouraged to communicate as soon as possible with the admitting physician regarding their orders for the admitted patients, especially medication and non-urgent diagnostic orders.