

**Title: CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT WHO IS UNSTABLE**

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Location: Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center-Mishawaka (SJRMC)		Department: Medical Staff Office

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**POLICY:**

1. Medical Staff Rules and Regulations 2.2.b. states that “Any critically ill patient shall be seen promptly after the physician has been notified of an unstable condition. A critically ill patient is defined as one who is unstable as defined by policy. After their initial assessment, all patients shall be seen once in every 24-hour period thereafter.”
2. The Medical Staff defines a critically ill unstable patient as follows:
  - A. A patient whose hemodynamic, respiratory, or neurologic status can quickly deteriorate causing significant morbidity or even death unless prompt action is taken. The abnormal clinical parameters could include patient diagnosis, vital signs, physical findings, laboratory findings, subjective factors and patient prognosis.
    - 1) Examples would include impending or actual respiratory arrest from asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, congestive heart failure, new onset strokes, unstable heart rhythms and mental status changes caused by systemic infections or drug overdose. Such patients may not yet be in full cardiac arrest, but who may soon reach that point unless decisive action is taken.

**References/Standards:**

- Policy Origin Date: June 2008
- Review Date: December 2009, December 2012, December 2015, December 2018
- Revised Date:
- Effective Date: September 2008
- Reviewed/Recommended By: Medical Executive Committee
- Policy 163