

**EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Consultations	NO. 20
		PAGE NO. 1 of 2

Original Date of Issue: 12/89

<b>Reviewed:</b>	6/91	2/93	5/94	11/94	9/96	3/97	8/98	8/99	5/00
	1/03	4/06							
<b>Revised:</b>	3/90	12/08							

Patient  
Population

Neonate	√
Pediatric	√
Adolescent	√
Adult	√
Geriatric	√

**POLICY:**

By Medical Board Policy, Consultations to the Emergency Department:

1. Must be requested by a MD, DO, PA or nurse practitioner and must document the patient's name, unit number, location, time requested and brief statement of the patient's problem and reason the consult was requested.
2. Should be considered if the diagnosis is obscure, there is doubt as to which therapeutic measures should be utilized, or urgent intervention is required beyond the skills of the treating physician.
3. Requested consultations should specify whether they are:
  - 1) for consultation only
  - 2) for consultation and follow-up
  - 3) for teaching purposes (for interest only patients may not be billed for these).

Except in life threatening circumstances consultations for private patients should be authorized by the responsible attending. All other patients are seen by the appropriate service.

4. JCAHO and EMS regulations require that in life threatening situations, designated housestaff must be present in the ED within 5 minutes. For all other consultations, response by telephone within 10 minutes and presence in the ED within 30 minutes is mandatory for specialty attendings or their designated senior housestaff. The ED MDs will go up the chain of command to chief, then attending, and finally to chairman if there is no response from the designated on call MD

For housestaff responding in consultations in the Emergency Department, the minimum PGY levels are listed below:

---

**EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

---

**SUBJECT:** Consultations

NO. 20

PAGE NO. 2 of 2

---

General Surgery at PGY-4 level, minimum  
Internal Medicine at PGY-3 level, minimum  
Pediatrics at PGY-2 level, minimum  
Anesthesia at PGY-2 level, minimum  
Radiology at PGY-2 level, minimum  
Orthopedic at PGY-2 level, minimum  
Neurosurgery at PGY-2 level, minimum

The Medical Board does not consider the PGY-1 level appropriate for consultation unless a specific exception is approved in advance by the Board.

5. Each Department/Service/Division shall establish a mechanism to assure timely and appropriate supervision of trainee consultant by an attending physician. Such mechanism shall include:
  - a) The time interval within which attending supervision is required.
  - b) An appropriate means for documenting oversight (e.g. by countersignature, independent note, reference to discussion with attending in the body of the consultative response, including attending's name, date and time.)