

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

SUBJECT:	DISCHARGE OF UNDOMICILED PATIENTS	NO. 67.3
		PAGE NO. 1 OF 1

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Reviewed:							
Revised:							

Patient Population

Neonate	
Pediatric	√
Adolescent	√
Adult	√
Geriatric	√

To facilitate the discharge of homeless patients from the ED in a safe and efficient manner:

- 1) All patients seeking medical attention will have medical screening and stabilization without regard to ability to pay, in accordance with local, state and federal law.
- 2) All individuals in the ED Waiting room must register to be seen and be triaged. They will be called into the ED in accordance with triage policies in an expeditious manner.
- 3) Patients will be provided a list of homeless shelters, located in the “copies” section of Ibox. There are options available 24/7.
- 4) Upon discharge, patients able to reasonably care for themselves may not use hospital facilities for sleep or loitering. Individuals already seen and discharged may be escorted from premises by security, unless there is inclement weather (see below).
- 5) Clothing is available in the social work clothing closet.
- 6) If medical staff feels it necessary, they may give the patient the cost of transportation (in all but extreme cases, this is one-way subway fare). For re-imburement, staff must notify the ED social worker with: patient name, MRN#, amount dispersed, and why it was necessary.
- 7) In the face of inclement weather (which, in the opinion of medical staff, presents a likelihood of danger to the patient before arrival at alternative accessible shelter) individuals may use the ED waiting room as shelter until other arrangements become available or can be made by social work.