

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

SUBJECT: Guidelines for Nursing Orders on Admitted Patients

NO. 40.1

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Patient Population

Neonate	
Pediatric	
Adolescent	
Adult	√
Geriatric	√

POLICY:

To expedite patient care, and to assure that orders are appropriately picked up by ED nurses on admitted patients, and to assure that ED nursing time and efforts are not inappropriately spent on inpatient care.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- 1) All orders written by the ED attending shall be picked up by nursing, as well as orders written by house officers rotating in the ED. In general, this includes only orders necessary to the acute care of the patient.
- 2) Orders written in the ED chart by or for the admitting team shall include only those orders that are necessary to patient well being during their stay in the ED, such as insulin, repeat blood tests that monitor ongoing therapy such as heparin or insulin.
- 3) If orders are written by the admitting team, the team and page and page number must be included in the signature.
- 4) Orders written by, or for, the admitting team, primarily to expedite inpatient evaluation will not be routinely performed by ED nursing. Exceptions to this rule are at nursing discretion, and should be performed only if the primary work has already been done. This would include, for instance, sending blood tubes that have already been drawn and held.
- 5) Nurses have the right at any time to confirm orders with the ED attending if there is any question about appropriateness or accuracy of orders written.