

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: MEDICAL SCREENING EXAM

POLICY NO. 374A

PURPOSE:

To ensure that all patients presenting to Harbor-UCLA Medical Center on an emergency basis receive an appropriate and timely evaluation to identify potential life or limb-threatening conditions.

POLICY:

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center will provide an appropriate medical screening exam to each individual who presents at its emergency service units and on whose behalf a request is made for an exam and/or treatment for a medical condition.

The screening exam will be performed within the capability of the Medical Center’s emergency services and will include ancillary services routinely available for evaluation of emergency patients.

This screening exam will be performed to determine if the individual has an emergency medical condition, and will be the same exam that the Medical Center would perform on any individual with similar signs and symptoms, regardless of his/her ability to pay for medical care.

PROCEDURE:

I. SCREENINGS

A. Patient Presenting at Emergency Service Unit

1. The Medical Center’s emergency service units are:
 - Adult Emergency
 - Pediatric Emergency
 - Labor and Delivery
 - Psychiatric Emergency
2. Each emergency service unit will provide a medical screening exam to any patient presenting to it.

B. Unscheduled Patient Presenting at Ambulatory Care Units and Requesting Exam and Treatment for a Medical Emergency

1. Ambulatory Care units will refer each such patient for medical screening as follows:

EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/99

SUPERSEDES:

REVISED: 2/05, 1/18

REVIEWED: 1/02, 8/14, 1/18

APPROVED BY:

Kim McKenzie, RN, MSN, CPHQ
 Chief Executive Officer

Anish Mahajan, MD
 Chief Medical Officer

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 Chief Nursing Officer

Signature(s) on File.

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- a. Escort any adult patient with emergency medical or surgical complaints to the Adult Emergency Department Triage Desk.
 - b. Escort any pediatric patient with emergency medical or surgical complaints to the Pediatric Emergency Department Triage Desk.
 - c. Escort any patients with emergency psychiatric complaints to the Psychiatric Emergency unit. When appropriate, request that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provide an escort to the Psychiatric Emergency unit.
 - d. Escort any patient who states she is in labor, is obviously pregnant and complaining of abdominal contractions or pain, or appears to be in labor directly to Labor and Delivery. Any patients with signs of imminent delivery should be taken directly to the pediatric emergency room for evaluation before transfer to Labor and Delivery.

Note: The Ambulatory Care Escort **must** be **qualified medical personnel**.

II. DOCUMENTATION

A. Emergency Service Unit Responsibilities

- 1. Establish a medical record for each person who registers to be seen, even if the patient leaves the Medical Center before completion of the medical screening exam.
- 2. Document in the medical record the results of each such visit, even if the patient leaves before completion of the medical screening exam.