

LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING SERVICES POLICY

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Subject: DISCHARGE LOUNGE		Original Issue Date: 05/91	Policy # 725
		Supersedes: 10/20	Effective Date: 04/23
Departments Consulted:	Reviewed & Approved by: Professional Practice Committee Nurse Executive Committee Attending Staff Association Executive Committee		Approved by: (signature on file) Nancy Blake Chief Nursing Officer

PURPOSE

To describe the guidelines for the Discharge Lounge, an area within the Inpatient Tower, designed to provide a dignified and comfortable transitional setting for patients to wait while completing the discharge process.

POLICY

In an effort to facilitate the availability of acute care beds for admission in the Medical Center, a Discharge Lounge exists to provide an area for patients awaiting completion of the discharge process. The Discharge Lounge is under the supervision of a registered nurse and is staffed with Registered Nurses, Licensed Vocational Nurses, Nursing Attendants, and Intake Coordinator.

PROCEDURE

Hours of Operation

The Discharge Lounge is open seven days a week from 0700-2330.

Operating Guidelines

1. The Discharge Lounge can accommodate a maximum of 32 patients at one time.
2. Upon the completion of the Discharge order and Discharge summary, the following patients may be sent to the Discharge Lounge:
 - Stable condition
 - Independent with ambulation
 - Placement identified by Social Worker, if applicable

The following patients cannot come to the Discharge Lounge:

- Patients with disruptive behavior
 - Patients with Clostridium Difficile
 - Patients with Respiratory Isolation Precautions
3. The unit license nurse must give hand off communication prior to transferring the patient to the Discharge Lounge, call ext- 92281.

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4. Upon closing hours, and if patients are still awaiting discharge, the staff will notify the nursing supervisor for arrangements to be made to re-locate the patients. The Discharge Lounge staff will notify the patient's discharging unit and the family members of patient's new location.
5. If a patient becomes ill while in the Discharge Lounge:
 - The provider/team is notified, and arrangements are made to return the patient to a bed (the previously occupied bed, if still available).
6. In any emergency, the staff will call ext-111 "Code Rapid Response" and the patient will be transported to the Department of Emergency Medicine for assessment.

REFERENCE

Joint Commission Standards - Continuum of Care

REVISION DATES

92, 95, 96, 97, 98, 04/00, 12/01, 07/03, 07/05, 07/08, 09/08, 03/09, 10/13, 01/17, 10/20, 04/23