

## ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Page 1 of 2

**Subject:** COMMINGLING OF PATIENTS

**Policy No.:** B817

Supersedes: March 15, 2016

Review Date: September 15, 2023

Origin Date: March 19, 2010

Revision Date: September 15, 2023

### **PURPOSE:**

To identify the circumstances under which patients can be commingled. (Patients of different gender may be assigned the same room.)

### **POLICY:**

Although every effort will be made to limit commingling, patients may be commingled with the authorization of the Chief Nursing Officer or designee for the following reasons:

1. Infection control precautions requiring the cohorting of patients with similar precautions or conditions, such as MRSA, COVID-19, and TB.
2. Patients with high acuity conditions that merit close observation or monitoring by nursing personnel.
3. New surgical patients may not move as rapidly through the immediate recovery phases of their care. These patients would then be commingled based on their care needs rather than their gender.
4. Pediatric patients may be commingled when appropriate by age, developmental factors, acuity, or infection control.

Adolescents are not commingled with non-adolescents.

5. Unexpected emergency admissions from outpatient clinic or from weekend admissions when a gender-appropriate bed is not available.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. If commingling is necessary, explain the reason to the patient.
2. A documented assessment of the patient by the nurse manager/ designee, or the Administrative Nursing Supervisor will be made within 24 hours of admission or transfer to a commingled room.
3. This assessment will be repeated and documented at least daily on the patient medical record while the patient is commingled.
4. Relocate patients from any commingled room if they express this choice, if a bed is available, and if their condition allows this placement. Discontinue commingling at the earliest possible opportunity.
5. Exceptions to this policy are patients in:

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Approved By:

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- a. Intensive Care Units
- b. PAR (Post Anesthesia Recovery)
- c. Same Day Surgery (O.R. holding area)
- d. Special Procedures
- e. Pediatrics below age 3
- f. Observation areas