

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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Subject: REPORTING OF PATIENTS WHO MAY BE UNSAFE TO DRIVE

Policy No.: B847

Supersedes: September 7, 2022

Review Date: December 7, 2023

Origin Date: November 30, 2003

Revision Date: December 7, 2023

PURPOSE:

To comply with the regulatory requirements for the reporting of patients whose medical condition may make it unsafe for them to drive.

To reduce the likelihood of a patient injuring themselves or others by driving a motor vehicle when they have a diagnosis which may make it unsafe for them to drive.

POLICY:

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center will comply with regulatory standards which require that providers immediately report in writing to the local health officer the name, date of birth, and address of every patient at least 14 years of age or older whom the physician has diagnosed as having a disorder characterized by lapses of consciousness, Alzheimer's disease, or other conditions which may impair the ability to operate a motor vehicle safely (Health and Safety Code Section 103900).

DEFINITIONS:

Diagnose - means to identify the existence of a medical condition in a patient

Activities of Daily Living –means bathing, dressing, feeding oneself, brushing one's teeth, and performing more complex tasks such as grocery shopping, cooking, management of personal finances, and operating motor vehicle.

Alzheimer's disease and Related Disorders –means those illnesses that damage the brain causing irreversible, progressive confusion, disorientation, loss of memory, and judgment.

Disorders characterized by lapses of consciousness - Those medical conditions that involve:

1. A loss of consciousness or a marked reduction of alertness or responsiveness to external stimuli; and/or
2. The inability to perform one or more activities of daily living; and/or
3. The impairment of the sensory-motor functions used to operate a motor vehicle

Sensory Motor Functions means the ability to integrate seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling, and reaction with physical movement, such as depressing the brake pedal of a car to stop the car from entering an intersection with a green traffic light to avoid hitting a pedestrian crossing the street.

PROCEDURES:

1. Within seven calendar days of the day a patient aged 14 years or older is diagnosed with a condition that may make the patient unsafe to drive, the provider must submit the "Confidential Morbidity Report Form" for reportable conditions to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Revised: 3/10, 8/13, 6/16, 9/22, 12/23

Reviewed: 3/10, 8/13, 6/16, 9/22, 12/23

Approved By:

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2. The clinic or unit clerk prints the “Confidential Morbidity Report” form and completes the facility and patient information. The medical provider completes the information on the condition being reported.

NOTE: The “Confidential Morbidity Report” form is attached to this policy.

The clinic or unit clerk will fax the Confidential Morbidity Report to the Local Health Officer, DHS Morbidity Unit at (888) 397-3778. The clinic or unit clerk who faxes the form must initial the appropriate field on the Confidential Morbidity Report indicating that the form was faxed to DHS and ensure the original form is sent to Health Information Management (HIM) for scanning into the patient’s electronic health record.

Exceptions to Reporting:

A physician and surgeon shall not be required to notify the local health officer of a patient with a disorder characterized by lapses of consciousness if:

1. The patient’s sensory-motor functions are impaired to the extent that the patient is permanently unable to operate a motor vehicle, or
2. The patient states that he or she does not drive and states that he or she never intends to drive, and the physician and surgeon believe these statements made by the patient are true, or
3. The physician and surgeon previously reported the diagnosis and since that report, the physician and surgeon believe the patient has not operated a motor vehicle, or
4. There is documentation in the patient’s medical record that another physician and surgeon reported the diagnosis and, since that report, the physician and surgeon believe the patient has not operated a motor vehicle.

Guidelines for Unsafe Drivers Following a Procedure or Medication Administration:

The guidelines below apply to patients who may **temporarily** be unsafe to drive following a procedure or administration of sedation or anesthesia. For conditions requiring a “Confidential Morbidity Report” to DMV, please refer to the “Definitions and Procedure” sections of this policy.

1. The patient is to confirm a safe means of transportation during the scheduling of the procedure. If the patient does not have a safe plan of transportation, notify Social Work for assistance in exploring the availability of transportation to get the patient home safely after the procedure.
2. Staff verifies a responsible escort or driver is present before the patient is discharged home from same-day surgery, post-anesthesia care unit (PACU), or following administration of sedation or anesthesia.
3. If the patient plans on driving him/herself home against the advice of the provider following a procedure or administration of medication:
 - a. Suggest for patient to request assistance from next of kin or friend for a ride home or to consider an alternative method of transportation such as a taxi, etc.
 - b. If the patient does not have the means to pay for alternative transportation:

Contact Social Work	M-F 08:00 am to 4:30 pm	X57867
Contact Nursing Resource Office	Afterhours, Weekends, and Holidays	X 56211

- c. Notify campus Sheriff (**X57042**) if the patient's car is staying overnight in the parking structure and the date the patient will return to pick up the vehicle.

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- d. If the patient refuses alternative transportation, and insists on driving him/herself home despite discussions of safety risk to self and others:
 1. Inform the patient that you are required to notify law enforcement if the person driving a vehicle is a danger to self or danger to others. In the past, patients are amenable to alternative transportation if told that a report will be made to law enforcement.
 2. If the patient leaves to drive his/her vehicle against the recommendation, notify campus Sheriff (**X57042**) that the patient is driving away from the facility and is a danger to self and others.

ATTACHMENTS:

Confidential Morbidity Report

Guidelines for Unsafe Driver Following a Procedure or Medication Administration

REFERENCES:

California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Subchapter 2.5 "Disorders Characterized by Lapses of Consciousness" Sections 2800 - 2812.

California Vehicle Code, Divisions 6 and 7, and Section 1808.5

Health and Safety Code, Sections 100275 and 103900

SH:sh - 11/8/2000

TD:vz - 01/17/2003

PM:jm - 03/01/2010

IA:CM—8/19/2013

KT:MM:CM: 6/17/16, 9/7/22, 9/28/23

Guidelines for Unsafe Patient Driver Following a Procedure or Medication Administration

The guidelines below are applicable to patients who may temporarily be unsafe to drive following a procedure or administration of sedation or anesthesia. For conditions requiring "Confidential Morbidity Report" to DMV, please refer to [Rancho Administrative Policy B847](#)

1. The patient is to confirm a safe means of transportation during the scheduling of the procedure. If the patient does not have a safe plan of transportation, notify Social Work for assistance in exploring availability of transportation to get the patient home safely after the procedure.
2. Staff verifies a responsible escort or driver is present before the patient is discharged home from same-day surgery, post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) or following administration of sedation or anesthesia.
3. If the patient plans on driving him/herself home against the advice of the provider following a procedure or administration of medication:

- a. Suggest for patient to request assistance from next of kin or friend for a ride home or to consider an alternative method of transportation such as taxi, etc.
- b. If the patient does not have the means to pay for alternative transportation:

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- c. Notify campus Sheriff (**X57042**) if the patient's car is staying overnight in the parking structure and the date the patient will return to pick up the vehicle.
4. If the patient refuses alternative transportation, and insists on driving him/herself home despite discussions of safety risk to self and others:
 - a. Inform the patient that you are required to notify law enforcement if the person driving a vehicle is a danger to self or danger to others. In the past, patients are amenable to alternative transportation if told that a report will be made to law enforcement.
 - b. If the patient leaves to drive his/her vehicle against the recommendation, notify campus Sheriff (**X57042**) that the patient is driving away from the facility and is a danger to self and others.

Note: Not intended for reporting STD, AIDS, or TB. Please see comments below.

DISEASE BEING REPORTED:		District Code: (Internal Use)																																																																		
Patient's Last Name: <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> First Name & Middle Name (or Initial): <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Address: Street & Number: <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> City/Town: <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Area Code Home Telephone: <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Area Code Work Telephone: <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		Social Security Number: <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Birth Date: MM DD YYYY Age <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Apt/Unit Number: <input style="width:100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Gender: M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant ? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated Delivery Date: MM DD YYYY <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width:20%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>																																																																		
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DO NOT use this form to report AIDS, STD or TB. To report AIDS, STD or TB cases, follow the instructions below: AIDS: AIDS cases are to be reported to the HIV Epidemiology Program. To request reporting forms or report by phone, call (213) 351-8516. PEDIATRIC AIDS: Pediatric AIDS cases are to be reported to the Pediatric HIV/AIDS Reporting Program. To request reporting forms or report by phone, call (213) 250-8666. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES: The following sexually transmitted diseases and syndromes are to be reported to the STD Program: chlamydial infections, syphilis, gonorrhea, chancroid, non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU), & pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). To request reporting forms, call (213) 744-3251. TUBERCULOSIS: Tuberculosis cases and suspected cases are to be reported to the TB Control Program within 24 hours of identification. To request reporting forms or report by telephone, call (213) 744-6271. FAX reports to (213) 749-0926.																																																																				
REMARKS:																																																																				

For reporting of persons who may be unsafe to drive, please fax to the DMV, Drivers Safety Branch at (323) 724-9262. For all other reports fax to (888) 397-3778. For assistance, please call: Morbidity Central Reporting Unit (MCRU) at (213) 240-7821, or mail to MCRU, 313 N. Figueroa Street, Rm #117, Los Angeles CA, 90012	PATIENT INFORMATION MRUN NAME DOB/GENDER
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