



High Desert Health System POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 394
VERSION: 1

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION ROOM

POLICY STATEMENT:

Critical or unstable patients will be moved to the observation room as soon as possible for stabilization/treatment. The provider will initiate treatment and evaluate the need for transfer to a higher level of care.

The observation room will also be utilized for patients requiring extended observation and/or treatment (i.e. asthma nebulizers, IV hydration, cooling measures). The observation room may also be utilized to provide comfort for certain types of patients.

The observation room will have the following equipment:

- Wall mounted physiological monitoring system
- Observation gurneys
- Universal crash cart
- AED/MERB/Defibrillator
- Oxygen administration equipment
- Suction equipment
- BOA Pack

PURPOSE:

To establish policies and procedures for utilization of the Observation Room for the evaluation, monitoring, and/or treatment of patients with acute conditions.

PROCEDURE:

1. The charge nurse will assign patients to monitor the observation beds. This assignment will be made based on the nature and severity of the patient's medical condition.
2. A licensed nurse will be assigned to the observation room at all times. This assignment is noted on the daily assignment sheet by the charge nurse or designee.

3. For unstable patients, the assigned nurse will remain with the patient and:
 - a. Perform and document the following a minimum of every 15 minutes or as directed by the provider:
 - Assess/reassess the patient’s condition
 - Monitor and assess the patient’s vital signs
 - Monitor EKG pattern if patient is placed on the monitor
 - Maintain patient comfort and reassure by keeping him/her informed of procedures and treatment
 - Document patient’s response to treatment, assessment, and observations in the Medical Record.
 - b. Administer IV therapy and medication as ordered
 - c. Administer oxygen as ordered
 - d. Notify a provider if there is any change in patient’s condition
 - e. Keep the patient’s family members and/or significant others aware of patient’s condition/progress.
 - f. Transfer the patient per provider order

Approved By: Susan Knapp (CHIEF NURSING OFFICER I)	
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Supersedes:	