



High Desert Health System POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 741
VERSION: 1

SUBJECT: PATIENT IDENTIFICATION

PURPOSE: To provide guidance regarding expectation that all patients are identified prior to the provision of care, treatment or any other diagnostic or therapeutic services, thereby ensuring that the care and services ordered are delivered to the correct patient.

POLICY: Healthcare providers will use at least two patient identifiers prior to treatment, procedure, clinical intervention or encounter.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Healthcare worker will use active communication, whenever possible, to confirm the correct identification of the patient prior to any treatment, procedure, clinical intervention or patient encounter.
2. In order to reliably identify the patient and match the patient to the treatment or service provided, two (2) patient identifiers must be used prior to conducting any service/treatment/procedure in any setting. Procedures may include, but are not limited to: dispensing and administering medication, performing procedures or diagnostic tests, obtaining blood or other specimens from the patient, and performing treatments.
3. The following two identifiers are used at High Desert Health System to provide positive identification of patients:
 - Patient name
 - Date of birth
4. For new and existing patients, the following documents will be accepted to validate identity:
 - A. Patient's clinic card
 - B. Valid driver's license.
 - C. Valid Passport.
 - D. Alien registration card.
 - E. Law enforcement officer.
 - F. Patient's relative, parent, spouse, child guardian or domestic partner.
 - G. Current school identification, which includes a photograph.

CROSS REFERENCES:

2014 National Patient Safety Goals: 01.01.01

DHS Policy No. [370.1](#): Patient Identification Verification

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Supersedes: High Desert Health System Policy LD.D.2, Patient Identification Effective Date 3/8/2004	