



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF DENTISTRY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Admission, Length-of-Stay, and Discharge Criteria

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Supersedes:
Revision Date: 11/30/09
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POLICY:

The Department of Dentistry shall delineate the admission, length-of-stay, and discharge criteria for patients assigned to the department for care.

PROCEDURE:

1. Admission Criteria: The Department of Dentistry uses the outpatient surgery unit (217) to treat patients in the operating room under general anesthesia. The patients are severely disabled, mentally retarded, or extremely young children who have extensive dental disease but are unable to cooperate or tolerate treatment in a clinic setting. Patients with severe gingival hyperplasia secondary to dilantin therapy are also treated under general anesthesia.

Patients are admitted to the hospital according to the following criteria:

- a. Pre-Operative Admission

Patients are admitted one day prior to the surgery if it is determined by the Dental, Medical, Pediatric, and/ or the Anesthesia Service to be medically necessary to evaluate and/or treat the patient prior to surgery.

- b. Post-Operative Admission

Patients are admitted after the surgery by the Dental Service if it is determined by the Dental, Medical, Pediatric and/or Anesthesia Service that the patient is not in satisfactory condition for discharge (see "Discharge Criteria" below). Justification for the admission and level of care will be documented in the admission note titled "Urgent, Emergent Post Op Admission Note".

2. Estimated Length of Stay; Most dental patients are treated as outpatient surgery. Patients come to the hospital the morning of surgery and are able to go home the day of surgery.

- a. Pre-Operative Admissions

Patients admitted prior to surgery are admitted the day prior to surgery and go home the day of surgery or the day after surgery for an estimated length of stay of 2-3 days.

- b. Urgent/Emergent Post-Operative Admissions

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/2002

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

APPROVED BY: Terrie DeBord, DDS

Signature(s) on File.

Patients admitted post-operatively because they are not in satisfactory condition to be discharged have an estimated length of stay of one day.

3. Discharge Criteria: The Department of Dentistry will discharge patients according to the following criteria:
 - a. The patient must show no signs of respiratory distress or airway restriction.
 - b. Intraoral bleeding must be controlled.
 - c. The patient must have stable vital signs, adequate oral fluid intake and must be voiding as pre-operatively.
 - d. The patient responds to auditory and/or physical stimulation as preoperatively.
 - e. Post-operative care instructions, including a post-operative clinic appointment must be given to the responsible party both verbally and in writing.
 - f. Children under 18 must be cleared medically by the attending pediatrician. Adults must be cleared by the anesthesiologist.