

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**SUBJECT:** PRIORITIZATION OF SPECIALIZED PROCEDURES**POLICY NO.** 327

PURPOSE:: To establish appropriate means for queuing patients who require specialized procedures that are based on the patient's clinical conditions.

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services' health system includes several hospitals and health centers with varying capabilities in providing highly specialized procedures. Some facilities do not provide the level of specialized care that may be required by patients within their geographic area.

The practice has been to arrange for that care to be provided at alternative locations. It is preferable to provide the care, if possible, within the Los Angeles County system.

In order to ensure that the patient's clinical condition is a factor in scheduling appointments for evaluation and treatment, this policy shall be followed.

POLICY:: The chief of the applicable specialty service shall ensure that patients are scheduled based on their clinical condition.

Each facility that provides care for patients from another county facility shall establish appropriate clinical indicators for determining prioritization. These clinical indicators shall be consistent with recognized standards of practice.

The Medical Director of each facility shall be responsible for assuring that the clinical indicators are appropriate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Jun 01, 1996**SUPERCEDES:****APPROVED:** Signature on File