

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



SUBJECT: DISCHARGE OF HOSPITAL PATIENTS

POLICY NO. 374

PURPOSE:: To state the Department's position regarding discharge of patients from its hospitals.

POLICY:: A patient may be discharged only upon the written order of a physician who is familiar with the patient's condition.

A patient treated in a psychiatric facility should not be released without an appropriate after-care plan for services the patient may need following discharge.

DEFINITION:: The written order is the physician's signature of a discharge record.

CROSS REFERENCE:: Patients who Sign Out Against Medical Advice, Policy No. 315

AUTHORITY:: California Welfare & Institutions Code

EFFECTIVE DATE: Jan 05, 1976

SUPERCEDES:

APPROVED: Signature on File
