

AH1040 - EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PRE-DISCHARGE REVIEW OF PATIENTS WHO ARE KEPT FOR OBSERVATION OR TREATMENT

1.0 PURPOSE

To improve the quality and safety of patient care by ensuring a standard of practice for the Pre-Discharge Review of patients who are held in the Emergency Department (ED) for observation or treatment and then subsequently discharged.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Pre-discharge review	The follow-up physician assessment of patients who are held in the ED for observation or treatment prior to discharge.
----------------------	--

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 Patients being observed or receiving treatment in the Emergency Department must be reassessed prior to discharge.
- 3.2 The patient's condition, response to treatment and suitability for discharge must be recorded in the patient's chart.

NOTE: An Emergency Department Physician (EDP) or Most Responsible Physician (MRP) MUST be identified in the event that reassessment is required (see policy [AH 1030](#)) for EDP physician to physician handover. Patients with specific discharge criteria written from a prior assessment (i.e., discharge patient if repeat troponin is negative) may not require physician reassessment immediately prior to discharge.

Should the nurse overseeing discharge have any concerns, they must communicate these concerns to the designated MRP and document this conversation.

4.0 PROCEDURE

As outlined in policy.

5.0 REFERENCES

1. Provincial Cochrane Report Task Group. (2005) Selected Provincial Level Recommendations: Final Report Implementation Plan. Provincial Emergency Services Project.
2. [IH Emergency Department Observation or Awaiting Transfer Pre-Printed Orders \(PPO\), \(Adult\)](#) (2011)

Policy Sponsor: VP Medicine & Quality	1 of 1
Policy Steward: Network Director, Emergency & Trauma Services	
Date Approved: October 2006	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: October 2009 (r), January 2013; April 2018 (R)