

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Number: TUH-ADMIN-950.2103
Title: RESIDENT/ATTENDING COMMUNICATIONS
Effective Date: 11/13/2003
Last Reviewed: 08/23/2013
Last Revised: 08/23/2013
References:
Attachments:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure patient safety and well-being for any patient admitted to Temple University Hospital.

POLICY

It is the policy of Temple University Hospital that attending physicians, resident physicians and consulting physicians have prompt and detailed communication between each other regarding clinically significant patient information, as set forth below.

SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Within two (2) hours of a patient's admission to the hospital, resident physician shall be in contact with the attending physician under whose service the patient has been admitted. Discussion of admitted patients between resident physicians and attending physicians should be detailed, and should include but not limited to:
 - a. Information obtained during the admission process and results of the history and physical
 - b. Laboratory results
 - c. Diagnostic imaging and other relevant test results
 - d. Initial diagnostic/treatment plan
 - 1) Major tests
 - 2) Medications
 - 3) Procedures
 - e. Questions from the attending physician that he or she believes are pertinent based upon the information provided as well as his/her experience, training and knowledge.
2. Resident physicians shall also contact the attending physician promptly when a patient's condition changes involving any of the issues listed below:
 - a. Death
 - b. Transfer to any ICU
 - c. Transfer to another service

NOTE:

Refer to the on-line version of this policy for the most current information. Printed copies of this policy may not be current.

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- d. Clinically significant change in status (e.g. a patient's unexpected deterioration), especially when such change
 - 1) Requires emergent testing (e.g., stat CT)
 - 2) Requires an urgent or emergent consultation from another service
 - e. Plan for inter-hospital transfer outside the Temple system
 - f. Other serious events
3. Resident physicians shall also promptly contact the attending physician if the attending physician's patient:
 - a. Elopes from the hospital
 - b. Leaves the hospital against medical advice
 - c. Has completed inter-hospital transfer outside of the Temple system
 - d. Has been discharged
 4. Consulting resident physicians shall discuss her/his clinical findings and any plan of care with their supervising attending physician within two hours of any urgent or emergent consult, and then timely communicate the results of that discussion to the resident or attending physician of the requesting service. Attending to attending discussions are encouraged and will be conducted as necessary in the interest of patient care.
 5. All of the scenarios discussed above in Sections 1-5 must be documented in the medical record by the resident physician. In addition, the attending physician must document in the medical record, as soon as is practicable, that the resident contacted her/him in compliance with this policy.

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Recommended by:

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08/23/2013

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09/19/2013

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