Subject: Orders and Communication with Attending Physicians

Category: Clinical Inpatient Curriculum

Scope: All Teaching Services

Effective Date: 5/7/1993

Revised: 1/13/2006, 7/31/2015

Approved by REC: 1/13/2006, 9/25/2015

PURPOSE

To assure progressive primary patient responsibility and clear communication in patient care.

POLICY

Residents must write all orders for patients admitted to teaching services with two exceptions:

1. Emergencies which immediately threaten patient welfare
2. Orders for subspecialty procedures (e.g. chemotherapy research protocol; bronchoscopy).

PROCEDURES

Appropriate communication must exist between the resident team and the attending of record to assure that all orders are written by residents. During regular hours, the attending of record should round with a member of the resident team during the attending’s daily management rounds. If this cannot occur the resident should be paged to discuss needed orders. A recommendation in a progress note is least desirable. When the attending of record is contacted by nursing staff for orders on a teaching service patient, that nurse should be referred to the assigned resident.

Residents who fail to order timely and appropriate care will be counseled by the attending of record and then, if necessary, by the chief resident and or the responsible site coordinator.

Local hospital policy, when more restrictive, will take precedence over the residency program policy.