



# Clark Memorial Hospital

Effective: 01/1997  
 Last Approved: 09/2013  
 Last Revised: 04/2003  
 Next Review: 08/2016

Owner: JENNIFER LITER: DIRECTOR,  
 MED SURG

Policy Area: Nursing - Patient Care

References:

Applicability: Clark Memorial Hospital

A Norton and LifePoint Partnership

## Physician Response Time

### POLICY STATEMENT:

All patients admitted are to be seen by their attending physician as soon and as often as deemed necessary by their physical condition. See also policies on Physician Availability, Nursing Judgement and Patient Falls.

### PROCEDURE:

WHO:	DOES WHAT:
Nursing Services	Will notify the attending physician of their patient's admission within 30-minutes of arrival time. The exception to this will be when there is a specific order not to call because the attending or consultant physician has already seen the patient, as in ER admits or transfers from the floor.
RN/LPN	Will notify the attending physician and the appropriate consultant for (but not limited to) the following situations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Laboratory results outside of the hospital norms (unexpected or significant panic values).</li> <li>2. Unexpected alterations in vital signs.</li> <li>3. Pain unrelieved by nursing interventions when no pain medication is ordered.</li> <li>4. Pain unrelieved by pain medication and/or nursing intervention.</li> <li>5. Nausea and/or vomiting when no medication is ordered.</li> <li>6. Unclear physician orders.</li> <li>7. Decrease in urinary output (below 30cc per hour). appropriate for patient condition.</li> <li>8. Unusual incidents involving patients.</li> <li>9. Increased agitation not relieved by medication and/or nursing interventions.</li> <li>10. Application of restraints.</li> <li>11. All SAO2's less than 85% requested or routine (unexpected)</li> <li>12. Cardiac arrhythmias that do not respond to treatment.</li> </ol>
Attending Physician	Will see his/her patients on at least a daily basis.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments

**COPY**