

Clinical Protocol

Admission of Patient to the Hospital

Category: Clinical

Sub-Category: Provision of Care

Other: Click here to enter text.

Type: POLICY

Status: Active

Last Reviewed: 07/01/2020

PURPOSE:

To describe a consistent process for admission of patients to the hospital.

SCOPE: All Employees/Workforce

POLICY:

Virginia Mason provides access to treatment or accommodations that are available and medically indicated regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, marital status, sex, gender identity or expression, disability, veteran or military status, nature of the source of payment for the patient's care, or any other basis prohibited by federal, state, or local law.

- Patient admission procedures show appropriate concern for the patient in order to ease anxiety and promote cooperation and receptivity to treatment.
- All patients are identified by using the standard process for patient identification, and the identification wristband is applied.
- Patients with allergies have a red wristband applied to alert caregivers.
- Patients are prohibited from bringing illicit drugs, non-medical drugs or unidentified substances, alcohol, contraband, or weapons, into the hospital. These items will be confiscated and destroyed as appropriate.
- Patients are encouraged to leave belongings (including home medications) at home or send them home with relatives. All patient personal belongings will be viewed by staff on admission to the hospital. Patients at risk for harming themselves or others will have their belongings removed on entry to the emergency department for safe-keeping.
- Patients' belongings must be viewed by hospital staff or belongings will be sent home with a relative or friend
- If not possible to leave valuables (including home medications) at home, admitting staff follows protocol for securing in Admitting safe. The hospital does not assume responsibility for patient's valuables.
- See guidelines in Attachment below.

DEFINITIONS:

Refer to **Medical Center Policy Development & Approval - Appendix A for standard workforce, roles and work product definitions.**

REFERENCES:

Standard Process, [Inpatient Admission Weight Wristband: Patient Identification and Color-Coded Alert Wristbands](#)
[Patient Rights and Responsibilities](#)
[Advance Directives](#)
[Charity Care](#)

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[Privacy Practices](#)

[Patient Nondiscrimination Policy](#)

[Precautions for Latex Sensitive Patients](#)

[Hospital Patient's Personal Belongings](#)

[Safekeeping of Patient Valuables – SP](#)

[Patient Refusal of Inventory or for Suspected Contraband – SP](#)

[Admission, Transfer and Discharge – SP](#)

[Admitting: Valuables Receiving Process – SW](#)

[Admitting: Valuables Releasing Process – SW](#)

[Admitting: Auditing Patient Valuables – SW](#)

DOH interpretive guidelines for drug security in hospitals.

KEYWORD Indexes: Patient admission; admit; hospital admit, belongings, placement guidelines, Family Birth Center

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Governing Department:	Nursing		
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The current version is on the organization intranet.*

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Attachment

Admission

If patient is sensitive or allergic to latex, refer to policy, [Precautions for Latex Sensitive Patients](#).

Patients are escorted to room by ITT and instructed in the operation of the bed, TV and call system as well as location of bathroom and closet. Before leaving, ITT turns on the call light to alert the nurse that patient has arrived. If the patient is not escorted by ITT, the nurse assumes these responsibilities.

The registered nurse and/or the PCT:

1. Introduces self to the patient.
2. Introduces the patient to roommate if applicable.
3. Assists patient if necessary to undress and get into bed.
4. Documents on electronic health record (EHR) patient's vital signs, height, and weight.
5. Weight must be measured in kilograms and confirmed by two caregivers, one of whom must be an RN (see Standard Process, [Inpatient Admission Weight](#)).
6. Views and documents a list of patient's personal belongings and valuables in patient's possession on EHR: Valuables/Belongings Form and follows process for safekeeping of valuables. Refer to policy, [Hospital Patient's Personal Belongings](#).
7. Determines that patient understands the operation of call system, telephone, lights and TV control.
8. Discusses basic hospital routines with patient (meal ordering, shift changes, etc.) and answers any questions.
9. Before leaving the room, ascertains that patient is comfortable and safe. Implement appropriate visual control when indicated e.g., for "Fall Precautions" etc.

The registered nurse:

1. Determines that patient has confirmed ID wristband per protocol, [Wristbands: Patient Identification and Color-Coded Alert Wristbands](#).
2. Verifies patient identification at admission or transfer to the hospital unit.
3. Completes EHR Admission Assessment Form and allergy assessment.
4. Applies red "Allergy" armband to patient if indicated.
5. Applies additional wristbands as indicated.
6. Assesses and notifies physician of any conditions requiring a physician's immediate attention such as severe pain, shortness of breath, etc.
7. Screens for flu/pneumonia vaccination needs. Administers vaccines unless contraindicated.
8. Screens for smoking and offers smoking cessation/secondhand smoke educational materials to all patients.

The patient flow coordinator:

1. Notifies provider of admission.
2. Provides appropriate I.D. bands, e.g., code status, allergies, etc.
3. Applies patient labels to all paper chart forms.