

USA HEALTH: DEPARTMENT of EMERGENCY MEDICINE
Academic and Administrative Policies and Procedures

Version date: 08-25-2023

SUBJECT: Resident Protected Time from Admission for Non-ICU, Internal Medicine Patients

I. PURPOSE OR OBJECTIVE:

- a. To describe the process of admissions for non-ICU, Internal Medicine (IM) patients at the UH ED between 0630-0700 AM, when IM residents are doing shift change.

II. RELATED/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- a. Patient hand off is a well-documented, high-risk patient safety situation. To decrease errors, interruptions during patient hand off should be minimized as much as reasonably possible.
 - i. Senior Emergency Medicine (EM) residents and faculty hand off every morning at 0630.
 - ii. IM inpatient residents hand off every morning at 0700.

III. POLICY DETAILS:

- a. To provide uninterrupted (protected) time for patient hand-off, for both EM and IM. Admission pages for non-ICU, IM patients will not be called between 0630-0700 daily.

IV. PROCEDURES:

- a. Non-ICU, IM patients, with a completed work up, requiring admission can be called to the IM resident until 0630.
- b. After 0630, these patients will be held in the ED, under the care of the daytime EM senior resident and attending, until 0700.
 - i. The overnight EM senior resident shall make a reasonable effort to complete their documentation of these patients prior to hand off to the daytime EM senior resident and attending.
- c. At 0700, any IM (non-ICU) admission that is being held in the ED can be called to the admitting resident.

V. OTHER INFORMATION: None.

VI. REFERENCES AND ATTACHMENTS: None.

Notes:

Prior approval and revision dates: none

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