


Name of Policy: <u>Observation Service</u> Policy Number: 3364-100-01-10 Department: Hospital Administration Approving Officer: Chief Executive Officer – UTMC Chief of Staff Responsible Agent: Chief Medical Officer Scope: The University of Toledo Medical Center and its Medical Staff	 Effective Date: 06/01/2021 Initial Effective Date: April 14, 1993
<input type="checkbox"/> New policy proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision of existing policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor/technical revision of existing policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy Statement

Observation services are those services that include use of a bed and periodic monitoring by nursing and medical staff that are reasonable and necessary to evaluate a patient’s condition and/or to determine the need for possible inpatient admission or discharge.

(B) Purpose of Policy

The purpose of observation service is to determine the need for further treatment/assessment for possible inpatient admission or for appropriateness of discharge. Observation should provide a higher level of care than a clinic setting or home care, but is not considered an actual hospital admission. Observation service may be initiated in the any procedure area for complications arising from scheduled surgeries and procedures.

(C) Procedure

Physician

1. There must be a written physician order for observation services. This order must specify “place in observation services for monitoring of”. The patient must meet InterQual criteria for observation status.
2. The physician should re-evaluate the patient within 24 hours to determine whether to discharge the patient or admit as an inpatient, if Interqual criteria for inpatient admission are met.
3. Consultations should be completed as soon as possible since the decision to admit or discharge must be made following the consultation.
4. Services not appropriate for observation status include:
 - a. Routine monitoring during the standard post-operative or post-procedural recovery period up to 6 hours.
 - b. Conditions that meet -CMS’s “inpatient only” designation.
 - c. Basic outpatient procedure (BOP) patients requiring recovery greater than 6 hours who do not meet criteria for observation or admission.
5. The medical record must include a dated and timed order for observation services, followed by an order for discharge or inpatient admission, history and physical and disposition note.

Nursing

1. Documentation must include the monitoring and observations as prescribed by the physician.
2. If the physician decides to admit the patient to inpatient, the physician or designee must enter an order into HEO to change the status of a patient from Observation to Inpatient, this order is communicated with the admission coordinator via fax. The admission coordinator will change the patient status in Star.

<p>Approved by:</p> <p><u>/s/</u> <u>06/11/2021</u> Richard Swaine Chief Executive Officer - UTMC Date</p> <p><u>/s/</u> <u>06/10/2021</u> Andrew Casabianca, MD, DMD Chief of Staff Date</p> <p><i>Review/Revision Completed By:</i> <i>HAS</i> <i>Outcome Management</i> <i>Chief of Staff</i></p>	<p>Review/Revision Date: 9/11/96 2/10/99 1/10/01 4/11/01 11/13/02 3/8/06 7/11/07 9/29/2010 3/1/2017 04/01/2020 06/01/2021</p>
<p>Next Review Date: 06/01/2024</p>	
<p>Policies Superseded by This Policy: 7-01-10 - Observation Service</p>	