

PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Effective Date: 9-17-04

Manual Reference: Deaconess Trauma Services

TITLE: DISCHARGE CRITERIA HOME/SKILLED NURSING FACILITY

PURPOSE: To establish minimal discharge criteria to assure safe transfer of care to home or a skilled nursing facility.

DEFINITION:

Discharge: The transfer of care from the acute care setting to home, supervised environment, skilled nursing facility, rehabilitation center or transitional care facility.

GUIDELINES:

1. For discharge to home, the following conditions must be met:
 - i. Tolerating PO diet or tube feeds.
 - ii. Pain managed with oral medications.
 - iii. T <100° for 24 hours.
 - iv. Electrolytes normal.
 - v. Hematocrit >22% (consider FeSO₄); WBC not increasing.
 - vi. Able to ambulate with assistance that is available **OR** has available help if to be kept at bed rest.
 - vii. If needed, home health nursing has been arranged.
 - viii. Patient or family understands discharge plan.

2. For discharge to supervised environment or skilled nursing facility:
 - i. Tolerating PO diet, tube feeds or TPN.
 - ii. Bowel activity without significant diarrhea or constipation.
 - iii. Pain managed with oral medications.
 - iv. T <100° for 24 hours.
 - v. Electrolytes normal.
 - vi. Hematocrit >22%; WBC not increasing.
 - vii. If required, IV access good without phlebitis.
 - viii. Wounds healing.
 - ix. Care is within the scope of the receiving facility.
 - x. Family or patient understands goal of treatment plan.

3. For transfer to rehabilitation center or transitional care facility:
 - i. Tolerating PO diet, tube feeds or TPN.
 - ii. Bowel activity without significant diarrhea or constipation.
 - iii. Electrolytes within 5% of “low normal threshold,” replacement underway.
 - iv. Hematocrit >22%; WBC not increasing.
 - v. Care is within the scope of the receiving facility.
 - vi. IV access good without phlebitis.
 - vii. Wounds healing.
 - viii. Antibiotic course, if indicated, is well established.
 - ix. Family or patient understands goal of treatment plan.

REFERENCES:

- Deaconess Hospital P&P 40-06, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSFER AND ACTIVE LABOR (EMTALA) GUIDELINES.
- RESOURCES FOR OPTIMAL CARE OF THE INJURED PATIENT: 2006; Committee on Trauma American College of Surgeons.

REVIEWED DATE	REVISED DATE
JAN 05	JAN 08
JAN 06	
JAN 07	