

OREGON STATE HOSPITAL

PORTLAND – SALEM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION 6: Patient Care

POLICY: 6.019

SUBJECT: **Designation of Medical Condition When
A Patient Becomes Medically Ill and
Notification to Interested Parties**

POINT

PERSON: BRIAN LITTLE

APPROVED: GREG ROBERTS
SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2011

I. POLICY

To establish procedures for communicating a medically ill patient's condition.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Classification of a patient's medical condition is made by the physician into one of four categories. Those categories are as follows:

1. "Good" means vital signs are stable; patient is conscious/comfortable; chance of recovery is excellent.
2. "Fair" means vital signs are within normal limits; patient is conscious/may be uncomfortable; chance of recovery is favorable.
3. "Serious" means vital signs may be unstable/not within normal limits; patient is acutely ill; chance of recovery is questionable.
4. "Critical" means vital signs may be unstable/not within normal limits; patient may not be conscious; chance of recovery is unfavorable.

B. "Interested Parties" means -

1. The people identified on the face sheet of the patient's medical record to be notified in case of emergency.
2. The people or agencies who are professionally interested or involved in the treatment of the patient.

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Page 2 of 2

III. PROCEDURES

- A. When a patient's medical condition becomes serious or critical, the attending or on-call physician shall note the medical condition in the physician's order section with a corresponding progress note.
- B. All patients whose condition is serious or critical shall have corresponding documentation by the attending physician. A change in a medically ill patient's status and medical condition shall be noted in the physician's order section with a corresponding progress note.
- C. In the event of any patient's deterioration to serious or critical condition, the physician or designee shall notify the interested parties and the Communications Center. When notifying the Communications Center, the names of interested parties contacted and the time of contact shall be communicated. This information shall be documented on the Failing Message form, with copies sent to designated Oregon State Hospital (OSH) personnel.
- D. If the patient's condition warrants transfer to an OSH medical bed, Salem Hospital, or other medical center, interested parties shall be notified by the physician or designee.
- E. When a patient's medical condition is no longer serious or critical, the physician shall make a notation on the physician's order sheet and write a corresponding progress note. The Communications Center and interested parties shall be notified by the physician or designee of the condition change.

Replaces OSH Policy and Procedure 6.019, *Designation of Medical Condition When a Patient Becomes Medically Ill and Notification to Interested Parties*, dated 6/3/2009.