

## Admission of Patients

**Department Generating Policy:** Nursing/Administration

### Purpose

### Audience

Nursing

### Policy

#### General Admission

A patient may be admitted to Astria Toppenish Hospital only by a member of the Medical Staff with admitting privileges. Patient placement within the hospital is based upon and guided by established admission criteria of medical diagnosis, severity of illness, patient's special needs, available nursing staff and level of nursing care required. The departments of Patient Care Services are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year unless otherwise specified in the unit specific structure standards.

#### Observation *(2 midnights or less)*

Admission of a patient for active treatment to determine if a patient's condition is going to require that they be admitted as an inpatient or if the patient may be discharged. Observation services include the use of a bed and periodic monitoring by nursing and ancillary staff, which are reasonable and necessary to evaluate the patient's condition.

#### Inpatient *(2 midnights or more)*

Admission of a patient with condition/diagnosis that meets established criteria requiring inpatient status, diagnostics, treatment and nursing care that can only be provided in an inpatient setting.

**Outpatient in a bed:** Admission of a patient for a planned outpatient procedure/surgery for which the patient requires an extended recovery time following the procedure. The patient may be recovered in the outpatient department or a nursing unit.

### Emergency Admission

Department: General Nursing 8923	Document Owner: Approved By: Cathy Bambrick	Effective Date: Date Approved 08/24/2023
Version :1	08/07/2023: 08/07/2023	Pages:

An emergency admission is defined as a condition in which the life of the patient is in immediate danger, and in which any delay in administering treatment would increase the danger.

Patients admitted on an emergency basis that do not have a private practitioner will be assigned an admitting physician under the Emergency Department's policy for physician on call.

### **Reoccurring Patient**

Admission of a patient for a reoccurring planned treatment or test (such as IV antibiotic therapy or wound care).

### **Admission of Patient with a Contagious Condition**

To keep exposure to a minimum, Astria Toppenish Hospital shall not admit patients suffering from chickenpox, rubella (German measles), Rubeola (measles), mumps, or smallpox unless a complication or other condition requires hospitalization.

### **Admission of Patient with COVID-19 Infection**

Astria Toppenish Hospital will provide hospitalized treatment for patients with the SARS CoV-2 virus based on the availability of patient care services.

Refer to the Infection Control Isolation Precautions policy for:

- Care of patients with contagious conditions.
- A list of negative airflow rooms
- Additional information on patient placement.

Refer to the COVID-19 Pandemic Policies for guidance:

- ATH COVID in Hospital Testing Policy
- Coronavirus Guidance Policy-Living Document
- ATH COVID 19 Room Cleaning Policy

### **Procedure(s)**

### **Implementation/Education Plan**

### **Related Documents**

### **References**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>

