



Part of the West Orange Healthcare Family

Policy & Procedure

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POLICY: Intensivist Program	REVIEWED:	
APPROVAL: MEC 05/21/2007; Board 05/29/2007	DATE:	REVISED:

POLICY: It is a policy of the Medical Staff that all patients with serious medical conditions and located in the Critical Care areas will be assigned an Intensivist to coordinate the care of the patients during their stay in the Critical care areas.

PURPOSE: To ensure the efficient coordination of care among providers for patients with serious medical conditions in the Critical Care areas.

OBJECTIVE: To efficiently utilize the resources of the health care system and to improve outcomes of patients with serious medical conditions admitted to the Critical Care areas.

PROCEDURE:

1. All patients with serious medical conditions admitted to the Critical Care units will be assigned an Intensivist. The assignment will be made by the Attending Physician. Patients seen in the Emergency Department and requiring Critical Care admission will be assigned an Attending Physician prior to admission to the Critical care areas.
2. The Attending Physician will select the Intensivist to provide care for their patient while the patient is in Critical Care. The Intensivist will coordinate all care for the patient until the patient is discharged from the Critical Care areas. Upon discharge from the Critical care areas, the patient will revert to the care of the Attending Physician.
3. The Attending Physician and all consulting physicians can continue to round and enter orders on the patient.
4. Physicians board certified in critical care medicine or pulmonology and suitably credentialed at Health Central may function as an Intensivist. For patient with solely a cardiac condition, a board certified cardiologist may function as an Intensivist.
5. All consultations will be ordered or approved by the Intensivist.
6. The Intensivist will be responsible for the discharge of the patient from the Critical Care area and to ensure proper transition of care to the Attending Physician.



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7. Nursing will contact the Intensivist to clarify conflicting orders.

8. Each Intensivist will be responsible for their assigned patients and for arranging call coverage with physicians who are appropriately credentialed at Health Central to provide Intensivist services.

9. The Intensivist will be required to respond (via telephone) within 15 minutes to all calls from the Critical care areas and respond to the bedside within 60 minutes, if required. The Intensivist will be responsible to write admission orders to the Critical Care area within two (2) hours of the decision of the Attending Physician to transfer the patient to the Critical Care area.

10. The Intensivist will be responsible to round on their patients and to review the plan of care daily.

11. The Intensivist will meet with the responsible party and/or family members of patients under their care, if requested.

12. If there is any difficulty in reaching the assigned Intensivist, the Intensivist on call should be contacted.