
* **ADDENDUM** *

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Division of Nursing

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TITLE: GOP – MEDICINAL ORDERS, GOP – REGISTRATION, GOP – EVALUATION

To: Medical Staff, E.D. Nursing

From: Chester J. Skiba, Jr., MD, Chief, Emergency Services

There has been an increased incidence of attending physicians calling in medicinal orders to the Emergency Department for patients of theirs registered as GOP, misinterpretation with regards to EMTALA mandated medical screening exam, and GOP patient evaluation in E.D.(time frame). The policy manual in the department at present stipulates that physicians may call in orders for lab tests, radiological modalities and IV's without having first assessed the patient in the department. Medicinal orders shall be accepted only if the attending is in the department assessing patient.

Realizing that the present policy may be too constrictive, it was agreed upon at the September 1995 E.D. meeting and later reviewed and accepted at the October Executive Committee meeting that an attending may give medicinal phone orders if his or her patient has come from the office within the hour. It was felt that two hours or more could potentially represent a change in the initial assessment.

If the physical constraints of the attending are that great whereby being in the department immediately for medicinal orders is not possible, the patient shall be seen in the department for emergency physician evaluation.

According to EMTALA and state mandates, all patients registered in the E.D. (GOP, general) shall have an initial medical screening exam.

Lastly, NJ licensing standards 8:43G-12.7(c)(4) mandate that the attending physician shall evaluate his or her patient within four hours of being registered in the E.D. If this time frame is surpassed, the emergency physician shall generate a chart and evaluate. No patient shall be discharged from the department without being seen and evaluated by an attending or emergency physician; e.g., a patient signed in as GOP, then turned into an admission must be seen by a physician before being admitted (this is a discharge from the E.D.).