

Current Status: PolicyStat ID: \



**Hackensack
Meridian Health**

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Owner:
Policy Area:
References:
Applicability:

ED STAT CONSULT POLICY

I. PURPOSE:

To ensure that patients who require urgent/emergent specialty consultation are seen in a timely manner and in compliance with CMS regulations

II. POLICY:

- A. Optimal patient care generally includes continuity of care by the physician who previously cared for the patient (referred to as the “established physician”).
- B. In cases that are emergent and life or limb-threatening that require immediate intervention in the opinion of the Emergency Medicine provider, **the established physician, if the patient has an established relationship, should be contacted first. If the consulting physician is not available or not capable of managing the emergency then the on call physician should be contacted..the on call schedule for the appropriate specialty should be used (where that specialty on call list exists), and the on call physician will be notified regarding the consultation.**
- ~~C. If the patient has an established care relationship with a consultant physician who is not on call and who is capable of managing the emergency, then that physician should also be contacted.~~
- ~~D. In circumstances where both the on-call physician and the established physician are contacted and both are able to provide immediate consultation, the established physician should assume responsibility and complete the consultation.~~

- E. In circumstances where the established physician (or his/her covering physician) doesn't respond within ~~20~~ 15 minutes, or responds but is unable to consult within an appropriate time frame, the on-call physician should assume responsibility and provide consultation.
- F. If the consultant physician from the on-call list does not respond within ~~20~~ 15 minutes, the hospital escalation policy should be followed.
 - a. Hospitals should establish escalation processes for the on-call schedule. An example escalation ladder may be as follows: on call physician > department chief or chair > hospital Chief Medical Officer > Administrator on call.
- G. If a patient requires urgent or routine but not immediate intervention, the established physician should be called, if applicable.