Name of Policy: Notification of Physician of Changes in Patient Condition

Policy Number: 3364-110-07-10

Department: Nursing Service

Approving Officer: Director of Nursing/Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)

Responsible Agent: Director of Nursing/CNO

Scope: The University of Toledo Medical Center (UTMC)

Effective Date: 5.22.15

Initial Effective Date: October, 1982

(A) Policy Statement

Appropriate physicians shall be notified of significant changes in patient conditions.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To provide guidelines and delineate responsibility for notification of physician.

(C) Procedure

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Registered Nurse (RN) to notify the physician of significant changes in the patient’s condition as reported by the bedside nurse. Significant changes in the following conditions shall be communicated in an appropriate manner according to established nursing standards.
   a. Lab values
   b. Vital signs
   c. EKG Rhythms
   d. Quality and quantity of output
   e. Untoward effects of medications, blood components or treatments
   f. Circulatory Status
   g. Respiratory Status
   h. Neurological Status
   i. Psychological Status
   j. Patient Related Occurrences
   k. Pain, unrelieved by interventions
   l. Critical test results and critical results

2. Changes in conditions other than listed above, that the RN believes warrants notification, shall also be communicated to the responsible physician.

Approved by:

Monecca Smith, MSN, RN
Director of Nursing/CNO

Review/Revision Date:
1983 1993
1984 1995
1985 1999
1986 7/2002
1987 5/2005
1988 7/14/2008
1990 5.22.15

Next Review Date: 5/2018

Policies Superseded by This Policy: 7-10

It is the responsibility of the reader to verify with the responsible agent that this is the most current version of the policy.