**Policy Statement**

Procedures for pediatric patients with uncomplicated medical and/or surgical problems (ASA classification less than P3\(^1\)) will be provided in (ambulatory) outpatient settings only. Limited observation stays will be provided for pediatric patients. Non-procedure based admissions will not be permitted.

**Purpose of Policy**

To provide for safe care of all pediatric patients undergoing procedures in the appropriate setting.

**Procedure**

1. All infants, toddlers and children requiring intensive care services or increasingly complex needs must be transferred to a pediatric affiliate institution immediately.

2. Outpatient surgery may be provided to pediatric patients as long as the providers have determined in advance that the appropriate staff and resources are available to treat any known or foreseeable complications. If the outpatient surgery patient needs an inpatient admission, they will be transferred to a pediatric affiliate institution unless otherwise medically contraindicated following consultation with their responsible attending surgical and medical physician.

3. In the event that a pediatric patient requires an observation stay following a procedure, they may be cared for in observation status.

4. In the event length of stay exceeds the 48 hour target of observation status, the patient will be transferred to a pediatric affiliate hospital, unless the attending physician, required consultative physician, and the Chief Nursing Officer agree to prolong the stay on a day-by-day basis. Documentation for the reason for such stay prolongation will be required on a daily basis.

5. Pediatric patients are cared for on 6AB, with pediatric equipment and PALS or equivalent certified nurses and physicians.

6. For any questions regarding individual situations, consult the Medical Director on call.

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\(^1\) ASA Classification of P3 is defined as a patient with severe systemic disease.
Policies Superseded by This Policy: 7-45-19 - Pediatric Patients/Procedures