Name of Policy: **Right of Hospitalized Patients to Change Physician**

Policy Number: 3364-100-60-08

Department: Hospital Administration

Approving Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Responsible Agent: Chief of Staff

Scope: The University of Toledo Medical Center and its Medical Staff

Effective Date: 05/01/2021
Initial Effective Date: March 8, 2000

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(A) **Policy Statement**

All patients of The University of Toledo Medical Center (UTMC) may refuse to be cared for by a particular attending physician. Although patients cannot insist on a particular physician, they can refuse to be cared for by any given attending physician for any reason.

(B) **Purpose of Policy**

To recognize the patient’s right to replace the current physician with another physician.

(C) **Procedure**

1. When a patient or the patient's substitute decision-maker expresses the desire to replace one physician with another, essential care shall be continued by the original physician until this transfer is made. This transfer is to be made as soon as possible.

2. When care is sought from a physician outside of UTMC, the arrangements will be the patient's responsibility. UTMC will work to facilitate the transfer of the patient. In select circumstances, the outside physician may be permitted to see the patient at UTMC. This situation will be addressed through the Office of the Chief of Staff.

3. In either case, every effort is made to promote continuous care and to minimize any delay in transfer.

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**Approved by:**

/s/ Richard Swaine
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 05/13/2021

/s/ Andrew Casabianca, MD, DMD
Chief of Staff

Date: 05/18/2021

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**Review/Revision Date:**

9/10/03
1/10/07
11/25/2009
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**Next Review Date:** 5/1/2024

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**Policies Superseded by This Policy:** 7-60-08