(A) Policy Statement

All patients are to be assigned a condition status.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To provide a means by which patient’s conditions can be accurately and uniformly reported.

(C) Procedure

1. Upon recommendation of the local Hospital Public Relations Officers and the news media, the Executive Committee of our Medical Staff and most other area hospitals, have agreed upon a set of standard patient condition definitions. These are as follows:

   **GOOD**  
   Excellent or good prognosis. Patient is conscious. Vital signs stable and within normal limits. Patient is comfortable.

   **FAIR**  
   Favorable prognosis. Patient is conscious. Vital signs stable and within normal limits. Minor complications and/or patient is uncomfortable.

   **SERIOUS**  
   Patient is acutely ill, with questionable prognosis. Vital signs may be unstable and/or not within normal limits. There is a chance for improved prognosis.

   **CRITICAL**  
   Questionable prognosis. Vital signs unstable and/or not within normal limits. Major complications. Death may be imminent.

   **NOTE:**
   Inquiries by the news media about a specific patient will be directed to the Office of Communication or the Nursing House Supervisor (HS)/Nursing Director (ND)/Assistant Nursing Director (AND). First, the HS/ND/AND identifies the patient’s selected Directory Option, by checking the demographic facesheet and/or the admission plate. Once the directory option is established, only the condition may be given if appropriate. Further inquiries should be directed to the Office of Communication or the person on-call for communications. The on-call person can be reached through the hospital operator. Directory options and associated restrictions are reviewed to ensure appropriate actions are followed.

2. Assignment of a patient’s condition should be noted in the Physician’s Orders, and by the physician at the time of admission.

3. Patients’ conditions are updated in the Care Manager System as needed.
### Approved by:

Monette Smith, MSN, RN  
AVP Patient Care Services/CNO

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Next Review Date: 6/2021

### Policies Superseded by This Policy:

9-01