

## NURSING SERVICES GUIDELINES GENERAL

**Guideline:** **Assigning and Reporting  
Patient Conditions**



**Policy Number Superseded:** 3364-110-09-01

**Responsibility:** Nursing Services

**Effective Date:**  
November 1, 2025

**Purpose of Guidelines:** To provide a means by which patient conditions can be accurately and uniformly reported.

**Initial Effective Date:**  
November 1, 2025

### **Procedure:**

(A) 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 Marketing and Communication or the Nursing House Supervisor (HS)/Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)/Assistant Chief Nursing Officer (ACNO). First, the HS/CNO/ACNO identifies the patient's selected directory option, by checking the demographic facesheet and/or the

Electronic Medical Record (EMR) . Once the directory option is established, only the condition may be given if appropriate. Further inquiries should be directed to the Office of Marketing and 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.

- (B) Assignment of a patient's condition should be noted in the Physician's Orders, and by the physician at the time of admission.
- (C) Patients' conditions are updated in the Care Manager System as needed.

Approved by:  
*Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC*  
*Chief Nursing Officer*

Initial effective date:  
November 1, 2025

*Review/Revision Completed by:*  
Ken Fry, MBA, MSN, RN, PCCN, CIC, NE-BC -  
Assistant Chief Nursing Officer - 11/2025

Review/Revision Date:  
-  
Next review date:  
November 1, 2028