

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Policy Number Superseded: 3364-110-09-01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

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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 Date:

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Review/Revision Completed by:

*Ken Fry, MBA, MSN, RN, PCCN, CIC, NE-BC -
Assistant Chief Nursing Officer - 11/2025*

Next review date:

November 1, 2028