

UF HEALTH SHANDS HOSPITAL
DEPT OF NURSING AND PATIENT SERVICES

GUIDELINE NUMBER: GL-LD-TC-03
CATEGORY: Triage Care
DATE: July 2025
NEXT REVIEW DATE: July 2027

TITLE: Triage of Patients when Census Exceeds Bed Capacity in Labor and Delivery

PURPOSE: To identify how beds are utilized and patients are triaged when patient census exceeds bed capacity in Labor and Delivery.

BACKGROUND:

I. Criteria for triaging antepartum patients:

- A. Patients with a gestational age of 20 weeks or greater who may be experiencing signs and/or symptoms of labor or complications directly related to pregnancy shall not be denied placement on the Labor and Delivery Unit.
- B. All available beds will be utilized on the Labor and Delivery unit before patients requiring labor and delivery care will be transferred off the unit. This includes available labor beds, recovery room beds, and triage beds.

II. Criteria for triaging postpartum patients:

- A. Patients shall be transferred to an open bed on 35AP or 95 after one hour of recovery care and vital signs are within normal limits.
- B. If there are no vacant beds on 35AP or 95, patients may be transferred to open beds on other units after collaboration between Bed Control, Nurse Manager or designee, and the attending physician.
- C. With a physician's order, a patient with an uncomplicated vaginal delivery may be discharged home after 8 hours with arrangements/instructions having been made for follow-up care.
- D. Physicians will round on current postpartum patients on 35AP or 95 OB/GYN for early discharge consideration.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- I. When all the available bed spaces have been utilized in the Labor and Delivery area, the charge nurse shall consult with the nurse manager or nursing supervisor on-call, chief resident and the faculty physician to determine priorities of care. All patients and their case histories will be reviewed to determine whether the specialized services of the Labor and Delivery Unit are needed. Patients who do not need these specialized services may be triaged as delineated above or may be discharged home if undelivered and not needing Labor and Delivery care.
- II. Patients may be temporarily placed two (2) to a labor room with special emphasis on rooming compatible patients together with consideration for isolation or issues of infection control. Appropriate patients include:
 - A. Sedated patients
 - B. Pre-term labor patients

C. Postpartum patients.

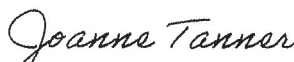
- III. When all the above options have been utilized and census remains over bed capacity, the Department Chair and OB Director should be notified so they can consult with hospital administration on bed placement strategies

KEYWORDS: census, bed capacity, labor and delivery, triage

REFERENCES:

Shands Core Policy and Procedure Policy Number: CP01.010. Category: General Administrative, Title: Patient Acceptance, Admission, Transfer and Discharge.

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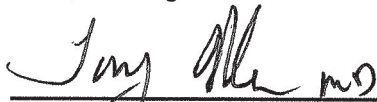


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