Title: PEDIATRIC PATIENTS, CARE AND PLACEMENT OF

Scope:
This policy applies to the placement of all pediatric patients typically under 18 years of age, within MultiCare Health System (MHS) at Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital.

Policy Statement:
This policy establishes the Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital procedure for the appropriate placement of pediatric patients.
All patients are admitted without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pre-existing condition, physical or mental status

Procedure:

I. Pediatric patients requiring services within MHS:
   A. Every effort will be made to admit pediatric patients to Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital; however, other specialties and locations may provide services to pediatric patients
   B. An adult (greater than or equal to 18 years of age) may receive services and admissions to MBCH based on the department’s scope of service and on an individual case-by-case basis.
   C. Emancipated minors, behavioral health, minor parents and obstetrical patients will be treated as adults with regard to consent for care. Note see MHS P&P “Informed Consent and Patient Competency.”
   D. All pediatric patients, regardless of location or service, will receive individualized, age and developmentally-appropriate care
   E. Policies and procedures related to the care of pediatric patients will be followed at all locations where pediatric patients receive care
   F. A patient must be 18 years or older to execute an Advance Directive.
      See MHS P & P: Advance Directives: Living Will and Mental Health

II. Responsibilities:
   A. The Mary Bridge Children’s House Supervisor will assist in collaboration with the appropriate Clinical Director and/or designee and the administrator on-call to determine patient placement if needed.
      Consideration will be given to admission of both pediatric and non-pediatric patients based on individualized care needs and facility capacity status.
III. The following steps assure proper placement of the pediatric patient:

A. Pediatric patients will be given priority consideration over adult patients for admission requests to MBCH.

B. The admission of adult patients to MBCH will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with approval being coordinated by the MB House Supervisor as appropriate, the Clinical Director and/or designee, the administrator on-call and the pediatric health care team.

C. Re-direction of admissions for identified non-pediatric patients to an adult facility will be coordinated by the MB House Supervisor and adult facility House Supervisor/Manager on Duty as appropriate, the Clinical Director and/or designee, adult and pediatric health care teams, and the administrator on-call as needed.

Definitions:

**Pediatric Patient:** Determined by patient age, from birth to 18th birthday (relatively, may also be based on patient’s medical diagnosis that is being treated by one of the Mary Bridge Specialty physicians).

**Emancipated Minor:** A minor at least 16 years of age may petition the court for determination of emancipation status. RCW 13.64.060. This status includes the right to provide informed consent for health care. Documentation of this legal status by health care providers may include obtaining a copy of the child’s Washington driver’s license or identification card, which designates emancipation, or a copy of the court order declaring the minor emancipated See “Informed Consent and Patient Competency”.

Related Policies:
- MHS P & P: “Admission of Patient”
- MHS P & P: “Advance Directives: Living Will and Mental Health”
- MHS P&P: “Informed Consent and Patient Competency”

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<tr>
<th>Approval By:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MHS Pediatrics Committee</td>
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<td>MB Nurse Executive</td>
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<td>Quality Safety Steering Council</td>
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3/13/19: Removed reference to retired policy “Provision of Care to Adult Patients by Pediatric Licensed Independent Providers (LIP) and Pediatric Staff”