

## **INPATIENT DISMISSAL OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN**

**REFERENCE # 87100**

**REVIEWED DATE: October 2014**

**PURPOSE:**

On occasion, an inpatient may dismiss their attending physician. For continuity of care, this is not encouraged, but is sometimes necessary. In these instances, the following principles will be adhered to:

**POLICY:**

1. The attending will continue to direct care until a new attending physician is confirmed.
2. The attending will document in the medical record that the patient has dismissed him/her, and that he/she will continue to care for the patient until a new physician is established.
3. The patient/family should bear the primary responsibility of finding a new attending physician.
4. If the patient/family fails to establish a new attending physician, hospital staff will contact the ED on-call physician in that specialty. If the ED on-call physician is the existing attending or a partner, hospital staff will contact the appropriate Department or Committee chair for assignment.
5. The dismissed attending will speak directly with the physician assuming care to provide all pertinent medical information.
6. Charts, which indicate a patient/family has dismissed a physician, will be reviewed by the appropriate peer review committee.

Original Date: 4/03  
Supercedes: 4/03, 5/03, 4/05  
Originating Department: Medical Staff  
Contributors:  
Distribution: Medical Staff

**SEARCH WORDS: DISMISSAL, ATTENDING PHYSICIAN**