

PROTOCOL FOR: Blood Pressure Screening: Emergency Department Patients

DESIRED PATIENT

- OUTCOMES:
1. Patient will receive education regarding Hypertension if needed upon discharge from ED.
 2. Patient will be counseled regarding follow-up care for hypertension.

CLINICAL
ASSESSMENT

- AND CARE:
1. An initial blood pressure is to be taken on all patients admitted to the Emergency Department.
 2. If the initial reading is greater than or equal to 160 systolic and/or is greater than or equal to 100 diastolic, a repeat blood pressure must be taken before the patient is discharged.
 3. If the repeat blood pressure is less than or equal to 140 systolic and/or less than or equal to 90 diastolic, no referral is necessary.
 4. If the repeat blood pressure remains elevated, notify the ED attending and advise the patient to follow-up with his/her private physician or the medical clinic.

- PATIENT TEACHING:
1. The patient's Emergency Department discharge sheet will include instructions to follow-up with a private physician for further blood pressure evaluation.
 2. If the patient does not have a private physician, a referral will be given to the patient for a medical clinic appointment.

REPORTABLE

- CONDITIONS:
- Notify Emergency Department attending of systolic blood pressure greater than or equal to 160 and/or diastolic blood pressure greater than or equal to 100.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/85

REVISION DATES: 4/94, 10/97, 10/99, 2/06, 9/08