

PROTOCOL FOR: EMTALA: EMTALA Page

PURPOSE: To maintain a system that allows the hospital to track response times for specialists answering calls to the Emergency Department. Logs are used to monitor response times and uncover potential problems with specialists or specialties, and are required for EMTALA compliance.

EMTALA

- OBLIGATION:**
1. Not all pages to the Emergency Department are "EMTALA" pages. EMTALA pages are used only when a delay in specialty consultation or care would likely result in further morbidity to the patient. Routine admissions and consultations of a stable patient do not meet the criteria for an "EMTALA" page.
 2. Conditions that require an EMTALA page include but are not limited to:
 - a. An unstable medical condition in which a delay in specialty consultation or specialty care would likely result in significant patient morbidity due to a delay in stabilizing that condition.
 - b. Critically ill patients where the on call specialty physician is the only physician with the skills needed to perform a life saving intervention and when that intervention must be performed in a timely manner to be effective.

- PROCEDURE:**
1. The Emergency Department will contact the JDH operator using x7777 and ask that an EMTALA page be placed to the on call specialist.
 2. The operator will place the call and time of the page will be logged by the operator.
 3. The attending physician for the requested specialty will be paged to the operator using a special ending to indicate that the call is an EMTALA call.
 4. When the physician calls back to the operator, the operator will log the time and connect the physician to the ED.
 5. The ED physician and the specialty physician will consult with each other regarding the patient and decide on a care plan.

RELATED POLICY: EMTALA: On-Call Obligations of Medical Staff Physicians
UCHC/JDH Hospital Administrative Manual (08-070)

APPROVAL: Emergency Department Standards Committee
Emergency Department Manager and Medical Director

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/08

REVISION DATES:

REVIEWED DATES: 9/08