

POLICIES CHECKLIST FOR THE HOSPITAL AT HOME PROGRAM

The following is a list of policies relevant to a Hospital at Home (HaH) program, requiring review and adaptation to ensure compliance. While each hospital and health system will have different needs, use of this policy checklist may help to organize a conversation with your HaH implementation team.

Tips for navigating HaH policies:

- Involve nursing and pharmacy leadership in the process of identifying existing hospital policies and supporting the changes needed to deliver HaH. And who in your institution oversee policy review and update? Those individuals can help identify applicable policies.
- In some cases, a simple exclusion of Hospital at Home from the existing policy may be sufficient; in others, new language documenting the approach in Hospital at Home might be required.
- Many policy alterations involve the timing of events. Inpatient policies assume 24-hour nursing and may refer to tasks being accomplished “every shift,” rather than “every visit.”
- Diagram HaH workflow to identify policy gaps or discrepancies. For example: If your program will be using paramedics, do the policy changes need to incorporate them?
- To simplify the work, look for over-arching policies that – if modified – will cover subsidiary policies.

Have you examined the following hospital policies for applicability to HaH?

Patient Identification

- Color-Coded Wristbands
- Handoff and Patient Transfer Communication
- Transmission-Based Isolation Precautions

Nursing and other clinicians

- Interprofessional Care Plan
- Patient Assessment: (Inpatient Nursing)
- Nursing Guidelines for Care (Adult Medicine/Surgical)
- Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Wound Care (Adults)

- Pain Assessment and Management
- Urinary Device Management
- Nutritional Assessment

- Suicide Assessment (the HaH process for a suicidal patient will most likely follow outpatient standards, rather than inpatient.)

Medication Storage and Administration:

- Labeling Standards for Medication, Medication Containers, Medication Infusion Lines or other Solutions
- Medication Administration (including patient self-administered medications)
- Peripheral Intravenous Line, INT Therapy Management