



MONE

Massachusetts
Organization of
Nurse Executives

Position Statement

MASSACHUSETTS ORGANIZATION OF NURSE EXECUTIVES POSITION STATEMENT

MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PATIENTS AWAITING ADMISSION

MONE POSITION

It is the position of the Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives (MONE) that hospitals have the appropriate resources and patient care delivery systems in place to care for all patients effectively and safely. This includes the efficient management of patient flow throughout the institution. Efficient patient flow management has been found to prevent (ED) overcrowding, patient boarding, and ambulance diversion; situations which can lead to treatment delays, jeopardize access to care and negatively impact quality and patient safety.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE

MONE recognizes that hospitals utilize many patient flow strategies to prevent boarding in the ED. The memorandum distributed by DPH on January 6, 2005, *Management of Emergency Department Patients Awaiting Admission*, acknowledges that at times hospitals may choose to move ED patients to temporary inpatient hall bed locations to receive care while awaiting inpatient bed placement. MONE supports the use of temporary inpatient hall bed locations *only* when all other patient flow strategies have been exhausted and when the following key points have been addressed:

- Privacy and patient safety are maintained
- Standards of care are maintained
- Accepting physician is available to oversee medical care of the patient
- Ancillary services are available
- Portable call bell devices are available to signal for assistance
- Adequate licensed and support staff to care for additional hall bed patients
- Use of hall beds should be limited to no more than two per inpatient unit
- Length of time hall beds are used should be minimized
- Critical care patients should not be placed in temporary hallway locations

BACKGROUND

MONE has participated in efforts with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Massachusetts Hospital Association (MHA) over the last several years as ED crowding issues present problems of significant concern. MONE commends the DPH for recognizing potential risks for patients and assuring an adequate standard of safety for all patients.

REFERENCES

1. Healthcare Financial Management Association, March 2006. *Tackling the Capacity Crisis: Successful bed Management Strategies*.
2. JCAHO. Standard LD.3.15. Hospital Accreditation Standards, 2006.

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