Title: Responsibility for Admitted (Boarded) Patients

Guideline Statements:

I. While not optimal, it is recognized that an Emergency Department patient has been admitted, yet remains in the department because an inpatient room assignment is not available. These patients are known as “boarders.”

II. In these situations, the transition of care to the admitting physician has already occurred, and the admitting physician is responsible for directing care of the admitted patient.

III. The Emergency Medicine physician may be involved in responding to medical emergencies involving the ED Boarder, but the admitting physician is responsible for directing care once admitted status is requested, and the transition of care has taken place.

IV. All Nursing and ancillary staff must recognize that the care of the ED Boarded patient is being directed by the admitting physician, and questions related to the care of the patient should be directed to that physician or appropriate consultant physician(s).