

Ground Rules governing CUH Emergency Admissions Interdisciplinary/Departmental Referral Policy

Agreed by CUH Consultant Medical Staff Committee (April '06)

1. All emergency medical/paediatric/surgical referrals should be admitted to the appropriate ward of the relevant medical/paediatric/surgical service, either directly or via the emergency department, as rapidly and efficiently as possible.
2. If a patient presents to the emergency department and is deemed to warrant admission to the medical/paediatric/surgical on-call service then contact with and referral to the appropriate on-call team should occur without delay.
3. If there is a difference of opinion between the EM SHO and the on-call Acute Unselected Medical Take (AUMT) SHO as to whether a patient being referred for general medical admission is 'medical' or not, then the on-call Medical Registrar MUST see that patient in the Emergency Department before determining that the patient should be admitted under the care of a medical specialty. [Note: It is current policy as per the Division of Internal Medicine's SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) that all medical patients presenting to ED must be seen by the duty Medical Registrar].
4. If there is a difference of opinion between the EM SHO and the on-call Paediatric SHO as to whether a patient requires paediatric admission or not, then the on-call Paediatric Registrar MUST see that patient in the emergency department before determining whether the patient needs admission or otherwise.
5. If there is a difference of opinion between the EM SHO and the on-call General Surgical SHO as to whether a patient being referred for general surgical admission is 'surgical' or not, then the on-call Surgical Registrar MUST see that patient in the emergency department before determining that the patient is 'surgical' or otherwise.
6. Patients admitted from the emergency department to the paediatric unit shall be admitted under the care of the consultant paediatrician on-call. Transfer of care of that admission to another consultant will only take place when there is contact and agreement at consultant level that confirms such a transfer of care.
7. Medical patients admitted from the emergency department shall be directed by the AUMT Team to the appropriate AUMT or other Specialty service, as per existing protocols. Transfer of care from an AUMT service must include contact and agreement with the other medical specialty at consultant level confirming the transfer of care.
8. Patients admitted from the emergency department to the on-call general surgical team shall be admitted under the care of the general surgical consultant on-call. Transfer of care of that admission to another consultant will only take place when there is contact and agreement at consultant level that confirms such a transfer of care.