

Observation Status: Admitted or Not Admitted



Linda M. Raileanu, RN, MM/PA, BSN

Key steps and questions you can take if you find that you are being kept in the hospital for further tests and or treatment.

1. Always ask, 'am I being admitted as an inpatient or am I being held in Observation Status'?

This is important, as it affects your out-of-pocket costs and could negate your rehab and skilled nursing benefits. Immediately contact your professional patient nurse advocate, as the nurse can communicate with the hospital, track your care, and work with the team for the best possible outcome.

2. If in "Observation Status" ask, 'if I am being held as an outpatient, why can't I be discharged from the ER to home and have the follow-up tests and treatments completed as an outpatient?'

It will cost you significantly less if you work through the system as an outpatient versus incurring the high cost of Observation status. However, **Do Not Leave AMA (Against Medical Advice – as sometimes insurers won't pay and you then cover the entire bill).**

If the doctor believes you can safely be discharged to home from the ER, follow your discharge instructions exactly as written **(Do Not Leave if you have any questions – take the time to get them answered before leaving).**

Critical: Call immediately upon discharge, make a follow-up appointment with your doctor, be sure to tell them you were just discharged from the ER.

3. Before heading to the ER, should you go to your doctor's office or an urgent care center, as options?

Always call 9-1-1 for chest pain, shortness of breath, loss of consciousness, trouble breathing, loss of blood, etc., when in doubt – go to the ER.

However, there are instances where using your doctor's office or an urgent care center is more appropriate, for example, a sore throat, a cold, sprained ankle, a minor cut, urinary tract infection, etc. This will not only save you large sums of

TIP SHEET

Observation Status: Admitted or Not Admitted

money, but you will receive the care needed and if either doctor sends you to the ER, at least you are now going under "doctor's orders".

4. When managing a complex medical condition from home, seek unbiased help of a professional patient/nurse advocate

Working with a professional patient / nurse advocate, who is not associated with your health insurer, can greatly decrease your stress, and help guide you through the pros and cons of available options in an unbiased honest manner, so you can make the decision that is best for you or your family member. Managing complex chronic conditions from home are extremely difficult; keep in mind you now have the ability to seek professionals for help.



Linda M. Raileanu, RN, MM/PA, BSN

President/CEO

Main Office: 882 S. Matlack Street, Suite 204 | West Chester, PA. 19382

West Chester: 610-429-1200 | Radnor: 610-977-2499

Email: linda.raileanu@genuine-hcr.com | Mobile: 610-930-6292 | Fax: 610-429-1299

www.genuine-hcr.com

"Your clear path through the healthcare maze™."

Copyright© 2013 All rights reserved