



Patient Care Services Policy

Effective: 12/91	Policy #: ED-016
Revised:9/93;1/96;8/99;9/00;5/02;5/04;4/06;1/08;5/11; 4/13; 2/18	Responsibility: Emergency
Reviewed: 5/11; 4/13, 4/17	Person reviewing: ED team of Nurses
Dept Mgr:	Approved:
(Signature) (Date)	(Signature) (Date)
SUBJECT: MANAGEMENT OF PREGNANT PATIENTS IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT	

PURPOSE: To accurately assess obstetrical status of pregnant or postpartum (delivered with infant) patients presenting to the Emergency Department (ED).

POLICY:

All pregnant patients will be evaluated in the ED by a physician.

1. Pregnant patients less than 20 weeks gestation will be evaluated as gynecological patients.
2. Pregnant patients greater than 20 weeks gestation presenting with cramping or bleeding or signs of labor will be evaluated as an obstetrical emergency. Determination will be made by the ED provider for transfer to an appropriate facility per Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) for delivery.
3. If a patient presents to the ED following an out-of-hospital birth, mother and baby will be transferred to an appropriate facility per EMTALA after stabilization.