Section 9	Clinical Affairs Policies	03/22/91 - Originated
Subject 9.1	Admissions, Transfers, and Discharges	04/07/11- Reviewed w/ changes - Reviewed w/o changes
Policy 9.1.9	**Delayed Discharge of Newborns**	Nursing Service - Author

Delayed Discharge of Newborns

Policy

To ensure the infant's safety when the newborn is to remain hospitalized after the birth mother's discharge, the mother may give authorization to discharge the newborn(s) to a specific individual.

Guidelines

In instances where a newborn is to remain hospitalized following the birth mother's discharge, the following guidelines apply:

- On the mother's first visit to her baby in ISCU and ISCI, she is given the *Delayed Discharge of an Infant* form to complete using forms that, whenever possible, have been translated into the mother's preferred language. . The original, signed and acknowledged by the mother, is to be placed in the infant's medical record along with a picture of the mother and one other designee of the mother. The mother will receive the yellow copy of the Delayed Discharge of an Infant form.
- Instructions are given to the family about the delayed discharge of a newborn regarding visitation, identification and bracelet checks.
- Upon discharge, the infant's identification bracelet will be verified with the birth mother; the mother's bracelet must be brought back when the infant is discharged.
- If, upon the newborn's discharge, another individual is to pick up the newborn, the birth mother must provide the nursing unit with the individual's full name, phone number, and either the social security or driver's license/state identification card number. This individual must provide picture identification (a valid driver's license/state identification card or a social security card and another form of picture identification) and also the patient identification bracelet which was given to the birth mother at the time of birth.
- If the mother or person designated to pick the newborn up is unable to come, the attending physician and care manager for the nursery will be paged.

Incarcerated mothers will give authorization to discharge their newborn(s) to a specific individual by using the Temporary Possession and Authorization to Release Form (form #7737). Care Management must be notified once the baby is born in order to obtain necessary information and signatures to complete required paperwork.

If a newborn is to be placed in foster care by Child Protective Services (CPS), a court order or notice of emergency removal form must be obtained from CPS and placed in the medical record prior to the newborn's discharge. Discharge of a newborn to be placed for adoption is addressed in Policy 9.1.15, *Adoption from the Neonatal Nurseries.*

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