Section 9 Clinical Policies Subject 9.1 Admissions, Transfers, and Discharges **Policy 9.1.22 Determining Hospital and Emergency Department Diversion Status**	09/02/10 -Originated 05/03/12 -Reviewed w/ changes -Reviewed w/o changes 07/24/12 -Effective Health System Administration:-Author

Determining Hospital and Emergency Department Diversion Status

Policy

As a result of the Emergency Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) regulations, determining the capacity and the operational status of the UTMB Emergency Department ("ED") and UTMB Hospital are extremely important. Determinations regarding capacity and operational status are an on-going responsibility assigned to UTMB's Health System Administration, the Emergency Department Nursing Leadership and the Emergency Department/Trauma Service Physician Leadership.

Determining Bed Capacity and Facility Diversion Status

The Patient Placement Center (PPC) coordinates with the Clinical Operations Administrator (COA) who will monitor personnel, resource, and bed availability. If it is determined that the conditions described below are met, Health System Administration On Call,the Emergency Department Nursing Leadership, and the Emergency Department/Trauma Service Physician Leadership will evaluate all data and make the final determination that UTMB will be placed on the diversion status applicable to the circumstances existing in the facility. If UTMB is on diversion status, transfers will not be accepted for services that are on diversion status, due to a lack of capacity and/or capability to care for the patient. Note: ***EMTALA does not require UTMB to accept inpatient to inpatient transfers, but inpatient transfers may be accepted on a case-by-case basis.***

Termination of Diversion Status

If it is determined that the conditions prompting diversion status have resolved, the Health System Administrator On Call, the Emergency Department Nursing Leadership, and the Emergency Department/Trauma Service Physician Leadership will evaluate all available data and make the final determination that UTMB will cease to be on diversion status.

Conditions for Diversion

Trauma Diversion:

- Two Trauma patients requiring emergency surgery and no operating rooms available; or
- Two critically injured (intubated) Trauma patients in the Trauma bays and no ICU beds available; or

Conditions for Diversion, continued

- The number of patients exceeds personnel available to provide care and no beds available.

Medical Diversion:

- Two or more Medical ICU patients awaiting beds; or
- The number of patients exceeds personnel available to provide care and no beds available

References

Policy 9.1.12 *Interfacility Transfer of Patients from UTMB*
Policy 9.1.16 *Admission of Interfacility Transfer Patients*

Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act [EMTALA]--42 USC Sec. 1395dd
http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2008-title42/pdf/USCODE-2008-title42-chap7-subchapXVIII-partE-sec1395dd.pdf

State Operations Manual
Appendix V – Interpretive Guidelines – Responsibilities of Medicare Participating Hospitals in Emergency Cases
(Rev. 60, 07-16-10):
http://cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/som107ap_V_emerg.pdf