



Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the Medical Center

MEDICAL CENTER POLICY NO. 0155

A. SUBJECT: Provision of Healthcare Services to Children

B. EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2011 (R)

C. POLICY:

Given the unique physiological, diagnostic, therapeutic, and psychosocial needs of children, the Medical Center shall provide facilities that are specially designed and equipped and staff who are specially trained in providing healthcare to children.¹

D. PROCEDURE:

1. **Required Competencies:** All healthcare providers and ancillary staff who provide care for children at the Medical Center shall obtain appropriate age-specific competencies specific to their discipline. This training shall be documented, kept current, and maintained within their department's competency files.
2. **Inpatient Care:** Children 0-18 years of age who are inpatients within the Medical Center shall receive care in a designated University of Virginia Children's Hospital unit. Exceptions to this policy require agreement of the University of Virginia Children's Hospital Associate Chief and/or Associate Chief Medical Officer for Children's Services and the attending physician of the specific child. (See #5, below).

Patients over the age of 18 who have specialized health, developmental, psychological and/or psychosocial needs that are best cared for from a pediatric perspective, may be admitted to the UVA Children's Hospital.

3. **Outpatient Care:** Children who are outpatients of the Medical Center shall receive care in designated University of Virginia Children's Hospital outpatient clinics. Exceptions to this policy shall be honored for those children whose primary care physician is in the Department of Family Medicine or for children with an established relationship with a member of the University of Virginia Clinical Staff that is not associated with the University of Virginia Children's Hospital. Patients up to 21 years of age shall be seen in the Pediatric Emergency Room.


¹ In compliance with The Joint Commission's regulations and the American Academy of Pediatrics' Standards of Child Health Care.

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Exception to this exists for patients of any age that present as a trauma patient and thus shall require trauma care services and treatment provided in the Adult Emergency Department.

4. **Mental Health Admissions:** The Medical Center does not provide dedicated inpatient pediatric mental health facilities, services, or trained personnel. Children with acute mental health issues and concurrent acute medical issues may be admitted to the University of Virginia Children's Hospital until the medical aspects of the admission are resolved. After such resolution, the pediatric patient shall be transferred to an appropriate mental health program/facility. Children with acute mental health issues and no concurrent medical issues shall not be admitted to the University of Virginia Children's Hospital.
5. **Census Management:** As the region's primary pediatric tertiary and quaternary referral center, the University of Virginia Children's Hospital strives to accommodate all pediatric patient referrals whenever possible. During high census and unavailability of pediatric beds, a decision to accept a pediatric referral may be made even if this entails transferring older pediatric patients to adult inpatient units. This decision however shall only be made after direct consultation and agreement among the attending physician, the Associate Chief Medical Officer for Children's Services (or his/her designee), the University of Virginia Children's Hospital Associate Chief, and the accepting adult inpatient unit's Medical Director (or his/her designee), the Administrator or the Patient Care Manager of the accepting unit.

SIGNATURE:


R. Edward Howell, CEO, UVA Medical Center
3/21/11

DATE:

Medical Center Policy No. 0155 (R)

Approved February 1994

Revised March 1996, March 1999, November 2001, June 2005, March 2008, March 2011

Approved by Chief Nursing Officer

Approved by Medical Center Administration