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ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

APPLICATION: All Departments, Personnel and Medical Staff
TITLE: EMTALA Policies and Procedures
SUBJECT: OB Medical Screening Examination
APPROVAL DATE:
SIGNATURE:

PURPOSE:

To provide a consistent system for the evaluation of presenting women with pregnancy-related issues in compliance with federal EMTALA requirements.

POLICY:

It is the policy of this hospital to provide a medical screening examination to all patients presenting for unscheduled obstetrical evaluation, testing or services within the capabilities of the Obstetrical Unit and the ancillary services routinely available to the Obstetrical Department, including the use of on-call physicians. Patients 20 weeks gestation or greater, with obstetrical or gynecological presentations (other than for scheduled procedures) will receive a medical screening examination in the Obstetrics Department consistent with this policy. Patients fewer than 20 weeks gestation will be provided a medical screening examination in the Emergency Department. Where trauma and/or medical conditions that are emergency medical conditions are present in the pregnant patient, the patient will be assessed in the Emergency Department and the location of further assessment and treatment will be at the medical discretion of the Emergency Department physician.

PROCEDURE:

All patients presenting for obstetrical and gynecological conditions, other than scheduled procedures, will be logged in by the Emergency Department, or directly in the Obstetrics department, if they present there initially.