



Procedure Title:	Medical Consultations in the Emergency Department	
Applies To:	Nova Scotia Health Team Members Nova Scotia Health Physicians and Residents	
Location Applicability:	Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Central Zone	
Approved:	Effective:	Next Review:
December 8, 2022	December 9, 2022	December 8, 2026
Sponsor:	Senior Director, C3 Operations	
Approval Authority:	Senior Director, C3 Operations	
Number: AD-C3-200	Manual:	Administrative

PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is:

- To standardize the process for consultations for patients in the QEII Emergency Department.
- To minimize delays in dispositions, admissions, and discharges.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

It is expected that:

- Emergency Department Physicians order consultations to assist in expediting and enhancing patient care.
- The length of time between patient registration and transfer to an inpatient bed or discharge should be 12 hours or less.
- The consulting Physician (or designate), known as the Most Responsible Health Care Provider (MRHP), will prioritize Emergency Department consultation requests.

PROCEDURE

1. The Emergency Department Physician assesses a patient and determines if a medical, surgical, or hospitalist consultation is needed.
 - 1.1. If a consult is required, the consulting MRHCP completes an order for the consultation.

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2. The Consulting MRHCP or designate examines the patient and documents the finding, opinions, and recommendations on the patient's health record as soon as warranted by the patient's condition.
 - 2.1. It is expected that the Consulting Physician completes the assessment within 12 hours from the time of the patient's registration in the Emergency Department.
3. Consultations that have been waiting over 12 hours are reported daily through the Patient Flow Managers' Report at 0600 hours and on C3 Daily Operations Calls.

REFERENCES

Office of the Minister: Health and Wellness. (2021). Ministerial Directive on Patient Flow and Ambulance Offloads.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Policies

[CDHA CH 10-120 Most Responsible Physician \(MRP\)](#)

Guidelines

[CDHA CH 10-125 Primary Service Consultation Guidelines](#)

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VERSION HISTORY

Version:	Effective:	Approved by:	What's changed:
Original	2022-12-09	Senior Director, C3 Operations	N/A