

ED OBSERVATION UNIT: 72 HOUR RETURN PROTOCOL

NYC H+H KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL CENTER

General Observation Guidelines apply for all ED observation patients. Protocol deviation may occur at the treating attendings discretion

Note, all patients who are placed on this protocol require both a physician in charge (PIC) and internal medicine consult. Internal medicine consult needs to follow the patient for the duration of the patient's time on Obs.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Patient from internal medicine who was discharged within the last 72 hours, and is not currently stable for discharge from the ED
- Meets General Observation criteria
- Consult to Physician in charge believes the patient is appropriate for Observation, and can be discharged safely in the next 48 hours.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- New end-organ dysfunction
- Signs or symptoms of sepsis or other illness that would require blood cultures to result prior to discharge
- Troponin higher than it was at the time of hospital discharge
- Patient required resuscitation with vasoactive medications (levophed, nitroglycerin, etc.)
- NIPPV is required at the time of consult to the physician in charge

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INTERVENTIONS

- Consult to PIC to triage whether patient needs would require more than 48 hours of medical care.
- PIC will provide initial recommendations
- Placement in Observation for Inpatient Consult to Internal Medicine
- Co-management by ED Obs and Medicine consult team
- Social work consult
- Care management consult

DISPOSITION

Home:

- Patient vitals are stable and clinical status improved
- Follow up plan is established

Admission:

- Patient requires additional medical care past 48 hours
- Unable to establish safe discharge plan