

**YALE-NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL  
MEDICAL STAFF POLICY & PROCEDURE  
PATIENT COVERAGE ARRANGEMENTS**

**Purpose:** To set forth the policy regarding patient coverage by Medical Staff for Yale-New Haven Hospital inpatient sites of practice.

**Scope:** Physician, dentist and podiatrist Members of the Medical Staff granted privileges to admit and/or perform surgery/procedures

**Policy:**

Consistent with Medical Staff Rule #8 "Protection of Patients":

*"Each member must have a coverage arrangement that assures continuity of care for the patient. This should be affected by means of an agreement with another appropriately credentialed and privileged member of the Medical Staff."*

Regardless of membership category (Attending, Associate, Pediatric Network, Courtesy or Visiting), in addition to other basic requirements for appointment set forth in the Medical Staff Bylaws, in order to be eligible for privileges to admit and/or perform procedures, Members/potential Members, of the Medical Staff must identify appropriate coverage for their hospitalized patients consistent with the terms of this Policy.

To ensure adequate provision of services, the covering physicians, dentists, podiatrists (as applicable) must have privileges that are essentially equivalent to the applicant him/herself. Essentially equivalent is defined as privileges that require the same level of skill and/or technique. In most all cases, covering practitioners will have completed training and currently practicing in the same specialty area.

**New Haven Area Inpatient Sites**

For admitting and/or procedural privileges in New Haven area inpatient sites, coverage by practitioner(s) with an office in New Haven or a "neighboring community"<sup>1</sup> is required.

Towns considered part of the "neighboring community"<sup>1</sup> include the following:

Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Derby, Durham, East Haven, Essex, Guilford, Haddam, Killingworth, Madison, Meriden, Middlefield, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, North Haven, Old Saybrook, Orange, Oxford, Prospect, Seymour, Wallingford, Westbrook, West Haven and Woodbridge.

**Bridgeport Inpatient Site**

For admitting and/or procedural privileges at the Bridgeport site, coverage by practitioner(s) with an office in Bridgeport or one of the following towns is required:

Easton, Fairfield, Milford, Monroe, Norwalk, Shelton, Southport, Stratford, Trumbull, Westport

**Procedure:**

1. Upon initial credentialing or, as applicable, at the time admitting/procedural privileges are requested, the applicant shall identify the individuals who will provide coverage for his/her patients hospitalized at Y-NHH facilities.
2. In the event that the practitioner identifies coverage that is outside of his/her current practice/group, written verification from the covering practitioner/s will be required.
3. The Department of Physician Services will confirm that documentation of patient coverage that meets the requirements set forth under this Policy has been provided by the applicant.
4. In the event that the practitioner changes practice location, coverage arrangements must be re-documented as applicable.

5. Applicants who do not meet the coverage requirements will be notified that they are ineligible for the admitting and/or procedural privileges as requested until such time as sufficient arrangements can be confirmed.

<sup>1</sup>As defined in Medical Staff Bylaws Article VI "Staff Membership", Section B "Basic Qualifications", Number 5(a)

New 10/18/11

Revised 11/21/11

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