

EMTALA - MODEL Facility Policy

POLICY NAME: EMTALA – Central Log Policy

DATE: (facility to insert date here)

NUMBER: (facility to insert number here)

This policy reflects guidance under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) and associated State laws only. It does not reflect any requirements of The Joint Commission or other regulatory entities.

The definitions in the Company EMTALA Policy, LL.EM.001, apply to this and all other Company and facility EMTALA policies.

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for tracking the care provided to each individual seeking care in a dedicated emergency department (DED) for a medical condition or seeking care in areas on hospital property other than a DED for an emergency medical condition (EMC) as required of any hospital with an emergency department by EMTALA, 42 U.S.C. § 1395dd, and all Federal regulations and interpretive guidelines promulgated thereunder.

POLICY: The hospital will maintain a Central Log containing information on each individual who comes on the hospital campus requesting assistance or whose appearance or behavior would cause a prudent layperson observer to believe the individual needed examination or treatment, whether he or she left before a medical screening examination (MSE) could be performed, whether he or she refused treatment, whether he or she was refused treatment, or whether he or she was transferred, admitted and treated, stabilized and transferred or discharged.

The Central Log includes the patient logs from the traditional ED and, either by direct or indirect reference, patient logs from any other areas of the hospital that may be considered DEDs or where an individual may present for emergency services or receive an MSE, such as Labor and Delivery.

PROCEDURE:

1. All hospitals must maintain the Central Log in an electronic format. An electronic template that includes all federal requirements for EMTALA is available on Meditech for each market or division to customize.
2. All ancillary logs maintained by all hospital departments, including the DEDs, labor & delivery, behavioral health, pediatric EDs, and catheterization labs, are incorporated by reference and become part of the facility's EMTALA Central Log.
3. The Central Log, including all additional logs incorporated into the Central Log by reference, shall be maintained in the same manner and with the same central core of information. The logs must contain at a minimum, the name of the individual and whether the individual:
 - refused treatment,
 - was refused treatment,
 - was transferred,

- was admitted and treated,
 - was stabilized and transferred,
 - was discharged, or
 - expired.
4. A log entry for all individuals who have come to the hospital seeking medical attention or who appear to need medical attention must be made by the appropriate individual. Further, in non-DED departments of the hospital where an individual may present with an EMC, the department will provide the necessary information from the point of contact to the DED for logging purposes.
 5. The Central Log of individuals who have come to the hospital seeking medical attention or who appear to need medical attention will be available within a reasonable amount of time for surveyor review and must be retained for a minimum of five years from the date of disposition of the individual.
 6. Duplicate accounts created for the same patient who visits the hospital on more than one occasion must be consolidated so that only one medical record number per patient exists in the Central Log.