



# ADIRONDACK HEALTH

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| <b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Administration, Medicine                 | <b>POLICY TITLE:</b> Cohorting Protocol: Observation Area Bed Designations (COVID-19 adjustment) |
| <b>PAGE</b> 1 of 1  | <b>REPLACES POLICY DATED:</b> 4/2020, 8/2020   |
| <b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> 9/14/2020                            | <b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>  |
| <b>APPROVED BY:</b><br>Dave Mader, AH Chief Nursing Officer | <b>PREPARED BY:</b><br>Madaline Toliver, AVP Long Term Care                                      |
| <b>SIGNED:</b>  | <b>DATED:</b>  |

**SCOPE:** Administration, Admissions Team, Nursing, Social Services. Policy will be added to the Mercy Living Center admissions packet.

**POLICY:** To preserve Mercy Living Center's ability to provide restorative/short-term rehabilitation (STR) services to the community at large, ten/eleven restorative/short-term rehabilitation beds on McAuley unit must remain available and specifically designated for short-term rehabilitation admissions and stays. Patients who convert from restorative/STR to long-term care must transfer to an available internal long-term care bed. If no long-term care bed is available, Mercy Living Center will assist patient in finding and securing an appropriate placement at another facility.

**COVID-19 Adjustment:** The COVID-19 adjustment is established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to ensure the safety of all residents and staff as the virus is transmitted through droplets, most typically through coughing or sneezing and is easily transmissible through the air and from objects. Additionally, one can be asymptomatic and still be infectious.

The advent of COVID-19 testing has enabled Mercy to safely reopen to admissions. It is with an abundance of caution that we convert some rehabilitation (STR) beds to create an observation area (rooms 203-209) on McAuley Unit on the Main floor. The area is separated from other rooms by a fire door on one side and a temporary wall on the other. The size of the observation area can change to accommodate 1 to 7 with the relocation of the temporary wall.

Protocols on care provided in the observation area are indicated in the *COVID-19 Surveillance for Mercy Residents and Staff 6.21.20 policy*.

**PROCEDURE: COVID Adjustment**

1. All patients admitted or readmitted for any reason will be admitted to the Observation Area for observation of signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Exceptions must be

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approved by the Medical Director and Director of Nursing and the identified room must accommodate infection control protocols.

2. Once cleared, via a negative COVID-19 test result and approval from the Medical Director, patient will be moved to either a bed designated for restorative/short-term rehabilitation or an available long term care bed on Warde Unit.
  - The following observation area beds on McAuley unit are specifically designated/reserved to monitor patients for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 upon admission/readmission or as designated by the Medical Director:  
**Observation area beds** can include rooms: 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, & 209.
  - The following beds on McAuley unite are specifically designated/reserved for patients admitted for, require, or continue to qualify for restorative/short-term rehabilitation:  
**Restorative/short-term rehabilitation beds:** 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 212, 214, & 217.
3. If no appropriate long-term care bed is available, our Social Services department will team with the patient and family/representative to locate an available long-term care bed in another facility.

**REFERENCES: CDC, NYS Department of Health, COVID-19 Surveillance for Mercy Residents and Staff 6/21/20, Short-term Rehabilitation (STR) Bed Designations Policy**