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Proposed Amendment to Regulations for Maternity and Newborn Services

19 December 1966

The subject regulation, promulgated by the Board of Health, was filed with the Department of Records on December 19, 1966. If there are no requests for hearing, this regulation will become effective on January 18, 1967.

A copy of this regulation is enclosed.

CC:

David C. Olson, Secretary

Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Board of Health

Proposed Amendment to Regulations for Maternity and
Newborn Services

Section 2. (b) Separate Maternity Service.

Patients on a maternity service shall be cared for in a division, unit, building, wing, or floor separate from all other services except as provided in Section 7. below where provision is made for a combined obstetrical-gynecological service under specially-controlled conditions as approved by the Department of Public Health.

Section 7. Combined Obstetrical-Gynecological Service.

(a). Application.

Any hospital requesting permission to operate a combined obstetrical-gynecological service shall apply in writing to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. Included in the application shall be a copy of the proposed rules of the hospital for the conduct of the combined obstetrical-gynecological service including policies and procedures regulating admission of gynecological patients to the combined service and providing lists of specific types of patients that may be admitted, that shall not be admitted, and that shall be transferred from the combined service; as well as a detailed presentation of the method of operation to insure at all times continuing competent medical supervision of admissions and transfers; it being expressly understood that the intent of these Regulations, in allowing the operation of combined obstetrical-gynecological service, is to permit the admission on this service of such gynecological patients as shall not be potential or actual sources of infection and the retention of such patients on the service so long as they remain free of infection, and shall not unduly increase the risk of infection of other patients.

(b). Records and Reports.

Each institution maintaining a combined obstetrical-gynecological service shall have available, at all times, reports for the preceding five (5) years which shall give the following information for each gynecological patient admitted to the combined service:

- (1) Identification;
- (2) Admission diagnosis;
- (3) Discharge diagnosis;
- (4) Reason for transfer from the combined service (if transferred);
- (5) Person approving admission.

(c). Responsibility of Chief of Maternity Service.

The Chief of the Maternity Service, as described in Section 3. (b), shall be responsible for enforcement of the medical policies of the combined service including those related to admission of gynecological patients to the combined service. He (or when he is not available, a previously-designated member of the medical staff of the maternity service) shall approve, prior to admission, the admission of each gynecological patient to the combined service.

(d). Admission of Gynecological Patients.

(1) Direct Admission.

Admissions to the combined service shall be limited to persons newly admitted to the hospital and shall not include transfers from other inpatient services of the hospital.

(2) Occupancy Limitations.

No maternity patient shall be denied admission to the combined service because of the presence of gynecological patients. Such a gynecological patient shall immediately be removed from the combined service if necessary to make room for a maternity patient. In any case, no gynecological patient shall be admitted to the combined service at any time when the combined service occupancy exceeds seventy (70) percent.

(e). Separate Rooms.

Gynecological patients may not occupy the same room as a maternity patient, it being understood that such rooms shall be separated by a solid partition extending from floor to ceiling.

(f). Visiting.

The visiting hours and other visiting policies for the maternity patients shall apply to the gynecological patients on the combined service.

(g). Nursing Supervision.

The nursing supervisor of the maternity service, as described in Section 3. (f), shall supervise the nurses and the nursing care of the patients on the combined service. This shall include the nursing care of gynecological patients on the combined service.

(h). Nursing and Medical House Staffs.

(1) Nursing Staff

Nursing staff assigned to a combined service shall not provide nursing care in the newborn nurseries or in the labor and delivery room unit. Nursing care for all adult patients on the combined service both gynecological and maternity may be provided by the nursing staff of the maternity service.

(2) Medical House Staff,

Gynecological patients on a combined service may receive medical care from the same medical house staff of interns and residents that provide medical care to the maternity patients. The same medical house staff may provide medical care in the nurseries and in the labor and delivery room unit.

(i). Labor, Delivery, and Operating Rooms.

(1) Labor Rooms and Delivery Rooms.

The labor rooms and delivery rooms of the maternity service shall not be used by gynecological patients on the combined service.

(2) Operating Room.

Surgery on gynecological patients on the combined service shall be done in an operating room not part of the maternity service. If an infection is found at operation, the patient shall not be returned to the combined service but shall be transferred to another service.

(j). Applicability of Other Items of These Regulations.

Except as otherwise noted, all provisions of maternity and newborn regulations provided above shall also apply to institutions with a combined obstetrical-gynecological service.