

Department: Medical Staff

Subject: Physician Coverage of the Emergency Department	Issued:	Revised	
	6/15/2005	8/30/05	12/2009
Approved			

PURPOSE:

To define the steps to be taken in case the *ER physician/Hospitalist* becomes unavailable.

POLICY:

Sweeny Community Hospital provides 24-hour physician coverage for the ED and inpatients.

REGULATORY REFERENCE: None

DEFINITIONS:

Hospitalist – a physician who specializes in inpatient care.

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:

Nursing Service / Medical Staff

RELATED POLICIES: Patient Coverage by the Medical Staff

PROCEDURES:

1. In the event that a scheduled *ER physician/Hospitalist* is late for his / her shift, the *ER physician/Hospitalist* who is being relieved will stay until the physician arrives.
2. In the event that the *ER physician/Hospitalist* on duty becomes incapacitated, the Emergency Department Director will be notified. If he/she is not available, the chief of staff will be called. *The Emergency Department Staffing Company* will be notified of the need for an immediate replacement.
3. If another physician is needed due to an extra heavy census, the *ED Staffing Company* will be notified. The Chief of Staff will be notified and *the on-call physician will be asked to come in if needed to fill in until the ED Staffing Company provides a physician.*
4. If there is a disaster, all active staff physicians will be notified and requested to come in.