

MEMORANDUM

TO: Medicine attendings and housestaff

FROM: Robert E. Morrison, M.D., Chief, Medicine Service, The MED

DATE: December 12, 2006

RE: 23-hour observation

In November 76 patients were admitted (given admission orders) but were discharged within 24 hours. In order to avoid possible inappropriate Medicare payments for patients admitted from the ER or clinic, please order 23-hour observation for any patient who may possibly be discharged on the same day. For patients who may possibly be discharged within 24 hours, write "23-hour observation to Medicine team A, B, C, or D, attending Dr. _____." You can change the order to an admission the next day by writing, "please admit patient to Medicine A, B, C, or D and follow same orders as before." Use the admission order for a patient likely to be in the hospital longer than 23 hours.

Please contact either Ms. Annie Hardy or me if there are any questions.