

# Criteria-led discharge

## Emergency Department factsheets

### What is criteria-led discharge?

Criteria-led discharge is a process that aims to support your discharge home as soon as you are medically ready. This means that you may spend less time in hospital because decisions about your discharge have been made early after assessment with an Emergency Department (ED) doctor in collaboration with a senior doctor.

### What will happen under criteria-led discharge?

Your doctor has determined that you are suitable for criteria-led discharge. Your doctor and nursing team should have discussed this with you and will work with you to meet the agreed-upon criteria.

Once the criteria are met, a clinician (usually a nurse) will discharge you home so that you can leave the hospital as quickly and safely as possible.

These criteria will be clearly documented in your medical record.

### How will I know if I have met the discharge criteria?

A nurse will confirm that you have met all the agreed-upon criteria and complete the appropriate documentation. Please feel free to speak to a staff member if you have any concerns or questions.

If there are no outstanding issues, you will be able to leave the hospital without seeing your doctor a final time. If there are any concerns, the team will contact the doctor to review your health before going home.

### Does this mean I will not see a doctor at all?

No. A doctor will complete your initial assessment, any testing or imaging that may be required and review your results. If you require

further medical input this will continue during your stay within the ED.

A nursing staff member will monitor your health and determine when the set of criteria has been met. You will not be discharged before your criteria have been reached. You can request to see a doctor at any time during your stay within the ED.



### Before you leave the Emergency Department, please make sure you:

- Understand the plan for you to manage at home (e.g. medications, follow-up care and appointments)
- Ask about medical certificate, and discharge letter
- Ask about GP or follow-up outpatient requirements

### What should you do if you experience problems or are unhappy with your care?

If you are unhappy with any aspect of your care, please ask to speak to the nurse in charge of your ward.

If you do not feel that they are addressing your concerns, ask to speak to the Patient Representative in the hospital.