

Key Phrases Within Guidelines

MCG utilizes phrases consistently across the INPT and OBS guidelines. As physicians become familiar with these phrases, it will allow them to be more efficient when utilizing AdmissionCare and to be applying the guidelines appropriately based on your patient's condition.

1. **Despite observation care:** used when a patient is currently in OBS bed status and is not improving. This term is applicable when converting an OBS patient to INPT.
 - Does NOT apply to care in the emergency department
2. **Beyond observation care:** provider anticipates hospital care that will go beyond the scope of OBS status or time, therefore necessitating INPT status.
 - Document why you feel this patient needs INPT care beyond OBS status.
3. **Vital sign abnormality:** needs to be **sustained**. Can NOT be a one-time reading or the patient's baseline
4. **Unstable vital signs:** fluctuating vital signs. Could change for the worse at any time and negatively impact the patient's clinical condition.
5. **Altered mental status:** different from the patient's baseline mental status.
 - Need to document how it is different from the patients normal.
6. **Abnormal laboratory results:** different from the patient's baseline values.

The following examples highlight how particular phrases are consistently utilized within INPT and OBS guidelines.

Guideline	Inpatient	Observation
ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unstable Vital Signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abnormal Vital Signs
Afib w/ COPD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent despite observation care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication rate control needed • HR > 100
Vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability to maintain oral hydration that persists despite observation care • Appropriate antiemetic treatment (eg, in OBS care) does not sufficiently reduce vomiting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to maintain oral hydration unclear • Vomiting that persists despite ED care
UTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistence or worsening of clinical finding despite observation care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ (38°C), vomiting, pain uncontrolled in ED • Ability to tolerate po intake unclear
Diabetes, Hypoglycemia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurologic findings that are recurrent or persist despite observation care • Persistent or recurrent hypoglycemia despite observation care • Other significant clinical signs or symptoms of hypoglycemia that do not resolve despite observation care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altered mental status different from baseline • Hypoglycemia <70 mg/dL (3.89 mmol/L) • Longer then 3-4 hrs care in ED required to monitor/observe/treat