

Observation Notification and Information Sheet

Thank you for choosing Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center for your care.

During a hospitalization you may either be admitted as an inpatient or placed in an observation status which is determined based upon clinical guidelines regarding the severity of your illness and the intensity of the services provided to you.

Regulations require hospitals to inform you of any changes to your admission status during your stay. At this time, your physician and the hospital have determined that the appropriate level of care involves monitoring and/or treating you in an observation status.

About observation status:

- Your expected length of stay in the hospital will be 24-48 hours.
- Your physician will determine your actual length of stay based on your condition.
- Following observation care, you may be discharged from observation status for continued outpatient follow up-care, or you may be admitted for inpatient treatment.

Observation and Insurance Benefits:

- Your insurance will be billed for an outpatient service even though you are in a hospital bed and may receive some of the same services as a patient with an inpatient status. (Note: this will likely generate a lower bill than if you were admitted as an inpatient.)
- You will be responsible for any co-pay and/or deductibles that may apply and which may be higher or lower than if you were admitted as an inpatient.

For patients with Medicare:

- In addition to the above, please note that:
- Your Medicare Part B coverage applies
- Your outpatient observation stay does NOT count toward the three day inpatient stay requirement of admission to a skilled facility.

If you have questions about your clinical status, please ask to speak with your care coordinator or your physician.

If you have questions about billing or insurance coverage, you may contact our Financial Counselor at 609-853-7852 during the hours of 8:00AM – 4PM (M-F). Outside of business hours, or if you have additional questions, contact your insurance provider at the number listed on your insurance card. Medicare Beneficiaries may call 1-800-MEDICARE.

I have been given a copy of this Observation Notification and Information Sheet.

Patient (or patient representative) Name

Patient (or patient representative) Signature

Date