



The Empowered Patient Coalition

WHO'S WHO IN THE HOSPITAL

ADMINISTRATOR ON CALL – A hospital executive who responds to emergencies after hours.

ATTENDING PHYSICIAN – The most senior doctor directly responsible for patient care.

FELLOW – A physician who has completed a residency and is training in a specialized field.

CHIEF RESIDENT – The most senior resident (physician in training) who directs the activities of other residents.

THIRD YEAR RESIDENT (PGY 3 or senior resident) – Physician trainee who helps coordinate care of multiple patients and supervises less experienced residents.

SECOND YEAR RESIDENT (PGY 2 or junior resident) – Physician trainee who helps manage patients and supervise and teach first-year residents and medical students.

FIRST YEAR RESIDENT (PGY 1 or intern) – A physician trainee who has finished medical school and is beginning patient care duties.

NURSING SUPERVISOR – The most senior nursing administrator available after hours.

NURSE MANAGER – The most senior nursing staff member for a particular hospital unit.

CHARGE NURSE – The direct supervisor of the nurses on one shift in a ward or unit.

STAFF NURSE OR BEDSIDE NURSE – A registered nurse (RN) who is responsible for direct patient care.

UNLICENSED ASSISTIVE PERSONNEL – Nursing assistants who may be called nurses' aides, patient care assistants or technicians.

HOSPITALIST – A doctor employed by a hospital to take care of patients in the hospital.

RAPID RESPONSE TEAM – A team of critical care specialists who can be called to assess a patient in an emergency. In some hospitals, patients and families can call the rapid response team.