

Excerpt from JCAHO 2008 Hospital Accreditation Standards  
on Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services

Discharge or Transfer

Patients may be discharged from the hospital entirely or discharged or transferred to another level of care, treatment, and services, to different health professionals, or to settings for continued services. The hospital's processes for transfer or discharge are based on the patients' assessed needs. To facilitate discharge or transfer, the hospital assesses the patient's needs, plans for discharge or transfer, facilitates the discharge or transfer process and helps to ensure that continuity of care, treatment, and services is maintained.

STANDARD PC.15.10

A process addresses the needs for continuing care, treatment, and services after discharge or transfer.

STANDARD PC.15.20

The transfer or discharge of a patient to another level of care, treatment, and services, different professionals, or different settings is based on the patient's assessed needs and the hospital's capabilities.

STANDARD PC.15.30

When patients are transferred or discharged, appropriate information related to the care, treatment, and services provided is exchanged with other service providers.