

Criteria-Led Discharge

What is it?

Many people find hospital a worrying and confusing time. Not knowing when they will leave the hospital (discharge) causes many patients a great deal of stress.

Criteria-led discharge helps make sure your discharge from hospital is not delayed. It makes it easier to safely transition home or to another care setting as soon as you are medically ready.

How does it work?

You and your team agree on a set of criteria you need to meet before you can leave hospital. Your team includes the senior doctor. This might include clinical criteria such as having a normal temperature or not needing a drip. It may also include other criteria such as being able to be independent where you normally live. These criteria will be added to your medical record.

What happens after my procedure?

Your doctor and medical team will see you regularly during your hospital stay. Your team will work with you to meet these criteria. A senior staff member will confirm when you have met the criteria to be discharged.

If everything is fine, you will be able to leave the hospital without seeing your doctor for a final time. Your team will work with you to develop a care plan to help you manage at home. This may include medications and any follow-up care you may need such as GP and specialist appointments or home-based support services.

If there are any concerns, the team will contact the doctor to review your health before going home.

What should I do if I experience problems?

Your care plan will tell you what to do if you experience any problems and whether you should contact your GP or the hospital.

What if I am unhappy with my care?

You do not have to agree to criteria-led discharge if you do not want to. If you are unhappy with any aspect of your care, please ask to speak to the nurse in charge of your ward. If you feel your concerns are not being addressed, you can ask to speak to the hospital Patient Representative.

Benefits of criteria-led discharge

You'll know what needs to happen before you can leave the hospital

You won't stay in hospital any longer than is needed

You and your family can plan for when you leave the hospital

You spend less time waiting for the decision to let you go home