

## **LONG TERM ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL (LTACH)**

### **What service(s) will be provided by this level of care?**

- Respiratory Care
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy/Speech Therapy
- Dietitian Services
- Complex Wound Management
- Medication Management/Antibiotic Stewardship
- Case Management Services
- Medical Care (daily visits by MDs/Nurse Practitioners)
- Nursing care (ratios based on patient care needs)
- 24-hour “Code Blue” coverage

### **How is this level of care different from being in the hospital?**

- Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals (LTACHs) serve a critical role by treating the most acutely ill patients who are stable but need extended time to recover in a hospital setting.
- The average length of stay for an LTACH patient is typically 25-30 days.
- Services provided at LTACHs meet the same criteria for patient safety, quality metrics, and clinical outcomes as traditional acute care Hospitals (i.e. Emory Hospitals).

### **How does the referral process work? Does this level of care require a physician order?**

- Your physician has to write an order to be evaluated for LTACH
- Potential patients are referred by Case Managers or Physicians at Short Term Acute Care Hospital
- Our Clinical Liaisons (RTs or RNs) assigned to various hospitals throughout Metro-Atlanta market follow-up with patient referral
- Admissions Coordinator works with Clinical Liaisons to verify medical insurance coverage for LTACH care
- Clinical Liaisons: Evaluate each patient for potential admission to LTACH, educate families, set-up tours, provide insurance verification information to admissions team, work with family to obtain consent prior to admission
- Once consent is obtained and the referring MD/hospital has signed off, transport to the LTACH occurs

### **How long will I need to stay at this level of care?**

The average length of stay is about 25 days depending on clinical needs.

### **Will my insurance pay for this level of care? What happens when insurance no longer covers this level of care?**

- Every patient referred to an LTACH has a review of benefits to verify their insurance covers LTACH services to minimize any cost to a patient or family.
- From admission, the Case Management team at the LTACH works to ensure a safe discharge plan for all patients to the next level of care.
- If a benefit is predicted to expire or lapse, our Case Management team will notify you and work to facilitate a safe discharge plan.

### **What should I expect from this level of care?**

- The goal of an LTACH is to return a stable, critically ill patient to an optimal state of health. This is done through evidence-based protocols for ventilator weaning, wound care management, physical and occupation therapies, and nursing care.

- The discharge process begins upon admission to prepare a patient and family for discharge to home, rehabilitation hospital, hospice, or a skilled nursing facility.

**Who will take care of me?**

- Bedside care is provided by registered nurses.
- Certified Nursing Aides provide activities of daily living such as bathing, turning, and assist with mobility.
- Respiratory Therapists will manage all ventilators, oxygen administration, inhaled medication administration, and procedures involving the airway.

**How often will I be seen by a physician or healthcare professional?**

- Daily rounding by attending MDs performed. Consultants round as indicated by patient condition.

**What happens if I have a clinical need that cannot be managed in the LTACH?**

- Most medical issues can be managed in the LTACH setting.
- In the unlikely event that there is a need for more advanced clinical services, you will be transferred to a traditional acute care hospital (such as one of the Emory Hospitals).

**Who will supervise and coordinate my care once I am at this facility?**

- A physician will supervise your care in the LTACH with any consulting physicians following your care (such as pulmonology, cardiology, or nephrology).
- Your LTACH Case Manager will work with the Interdisciplinary Team of MDs and clinical staff to coordinate all areas of your recovery.

**What is expected of me at this level of care?**

- You and your family are expected to participate, to the best of your ability, in the plan of care.
- You or your family are also expected to participate in the discharge process to find the best option for your needs.