Temporary Permission for Program Flexibility and for Emergencies

When the Medical Health Coordination Center (MHCC) is activated, Providers and District Offices (DOs) will submit requests to CHCQDutyOfficer@cdph.ca.gov

This form is to be used ONLY for program flexibility requests when providers temporarily need to comply with licensing requirements by using alternative concepts, methods, procedures, techniques, equipment, or personnel.

Providers are required to submit a program flexibility request to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center for Health Care Quality for approval. This form is a mechanism to expedite the request directly to the Medical Health Coordination Center (MHCC) for approval in emergency situations.

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/DistrictOffices.aspx

Facility Name: PIH Health Hospital - Whittier

Date of Request: 7/15/2020

License Number: 930000129

Facility Phone: 562-698-0811 ext.1

Facility Fax Number: 562-789-4300

Facility Address: 12401 Washington Blvd

E-Mail Address: [redacted]

City: Whittier

State: CA

Zip Code: 90602

Contact Person's Name: [redacted]

Approval Request

Complete one form total per facility

- [x] Staffing
- [ ] Tent use (High patient volume)
- [ ] Space Conversion (other than tent use)
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Bed Use
- [ ] Over bedding

Duration of Request

Start Date: 07/15/2020

End Date: 03/31/21

Program Flex Request

What regulation are you requesting program flexibility for? Title 22, CCR, Section 70217. Nursing S

Justification for the Request

- [x] A disease outbreak (verifiable through sources such as the local emergency medical service agency (LEMSA), local Public Health Officer, CDPH Division of Communicable Disease Control, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) is present in the community where the hospital is located or in a contiguous area(s) causing a rapid influx (surge) of patients to the hospital. Examples of this type of surge include: Increased cases of seasonal influenza, onset of a severe acute respiratory syndrome-type or other highly contagious virus requiring acute care, an epidemic/pandemic, a bioterrorism agent, or a declared public health emergency.
- [ ] An emergency resulting in the need for increased patient accommodations has occurred in the community where the hospital is located or in a contiguous area(s) causing a rapid influx (surge) of patients to the hospital. Examples of this type of surge include: A natural or human-caused disaster, a crime incident or transportation accident resulting in numerous mass casualties, an emergency causing the evacuation of patients or diversions from another hospital (LEMSA diversion has been implemented).

☑ If you are seeking a staffing waiver, has your facility laid off any clinical staff within the previous 60 days? If so, please explain (**Note:** Attach supporting documentation if necessary)

Facility has not laid off any clinical staff in the previous 60 days

Justification for the Request

☐ Other:

Exhausting Available Alternatives

The provider must exhaust available alternatives before requesting increased patient accommodations. Check all that apply:

☑ Rescheduling non-emergent surgeries and diagnostic procedures.

☑ Transferring patients to other beds or discharge as appropriate.

☑ Setting clinics for non-emergency cases (if possible).

☑ Requesting ambulance diversion from LEMSA, if appropriate.

☐ Other:

Adequate Staff, Equipment and Space

The provider must make arrangements for adequate staffing, equipment and space for increased patient accommodations. Check all that apply:

☐ A plan is in place for staff if the request is for use of alternate space.

☐ A plan is in place for equipment if the request is for use of alternative space.

☐ The proposed space for care of patients provides sufficient square footage to ensure access for safe care.

☑ Other: The hospital is utilizing the Hospital Incident Command Center to review all needs.

Additional Information

Provide a brief description of your conditions and explain the need for program flexibility. Provide a brief description of the alternative concepts, methods, procedures, techniques, equipment or personnel to be used, and the conditions under which this program flexibility will be used. Attach additional supporting documentation as needed.

On March 5, 2020, PIH Health Whittier Hospital activated an Internal Code Triage due to the current COVID- 19 Pandemic. The Internal Code Triage remains in progress and continues to review hospital operations, adequate staffing, equipment and space, as well as guidelines set forth by the CDC and LACDPH. The hospital is utilizing the Hospital Incident Command Structure (HICS) that includes an ongoing Command Center evaluating staffing needs on a shift by shift basis and as needed.

Due to the current COVID -19 pandemic, our patient volumes are in excess of our current staffing plan. Staffing needs are assessed on a shift by shift basis. Staff are allocated according to skill set and need. The hospital has implemented the following:

- Training programs to expand nursing skill sets allowing for flexibility
- Established a resource pool for clinical staffing
- Established a labor pool in accordance with HICS structure
- Utilized multiple means to reach out to external agencies for staffing resources
- Active clinical staff recruitment efforts are ongoing.

[redacted] VP Regulatory Affairs

Signature of person requesting program flexibility Title

[redacted]

Printed Name

NOTE: Approval for tent use, space conversion, bed use and over-bedding will be time limited and dependent on the facts presented that substantiate the emergency. Initial approval may be given verbally by the local DO; however, a signed written approval must be distributed (faxed) to the facility and filed in the facility's folder.

For CDPH Use Only

Center for Health Care Quality Approval:

[X] Permission Granted from: July 15, 2929 to October 15, 2020

[ ] Permission Denied: Briefly describe why request was denied in comments / conditions below:

Comments / Conditions:

CHCQ Printed Name:

CHCQ Staff Signature:

Date:

[redacted] Program Manager Nurse 7/15/2020

L&C District Office Staff Signature Title Date