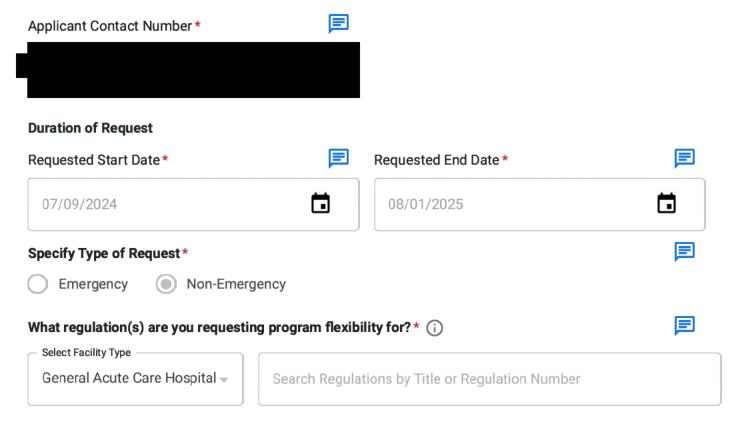
Program Flexibility Application

Please do not include any patient identifying or personnel information in your application. The information in your application is considered public information and may be disclosed as part of a public records act request.

Contact Details

Please provide the applicant's direct number should the Centralized Program Flex Unit have any questions regarding your application.



Selected Regulations

Intensive Care Newborn Nursery Service Staff, T22 DIV5 CH1 ART6-70485(d)

(d) A ratio of one registered nurse to two or fewer intensive care infants shall be maintained.

Effective January 1, 2023, HSC 1276 (e) and (f) references a new category for a program flexibility request, for a **general acute care hospital (GACH)**, that allows the facility to designate a bed, or beds, in a critical care unit as requiring a lower level of care.

Is this request related to a GACH designating a bed, or beds, in a critical care unit as requiring a lower level of care?*	i	
Yes		
Request Description		F
The facility is requesting to flex Title 22 Section 70425(d) to allow NICU RNs care for lower-lev patients during high volume periods.	el of ca	are

JUSTIFICATION

Describe why program flexibility is needed. *

Our facility is a licensed 9-bed level 2C NICU that frequently experiences over bedding in high-volume periods due to external barriers such as geographical constraints, transferring barriers, attempts for discharges, and with the exponential community growth Kern County has experiences since the beginning of the pandemic, the county's healthcare infrastructure has been met with complex challenges meeting this need.

In 2020, the facility's total service population amounted to 780,000 and since then has exponentially increased. Aggregate data from the facility's 2022 community health needs assessment shows about 70% of the service population are representative of young adults and families.

ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT



Describe the proposed alternate method for meeting the intent of the regulation. Include the alternate concepts, methods, procedures, techniques, equipment, personnel qualifications, or the conducting of pilot projects. Include a description of the provisions for safe and adequate care so that the proposed alternative does not compromise patient care. *

In efforts to address these barriers, the facility enacted an escalation plan during high volume periods (see FACILITY POLICY: NICU ESCALATION DURING HIGH VOLUME PERIODS). Moreover, if NICU patients are able to downgrade to a lower level acuity, but not medically cleared for discharge, the facility is requesting for NICU nursing staff to manage a 1:3 ratio assignment for NICU patients that meet this criteria.

Additional Information



Provide any additional information as desired.

The second attached document demonstrates instances where we had a high census, and efforts made to discharge, transfer, and/or downgrade.		
Please	attach any supporting documentation for the request.	
More th	nan one document may be uploaded here.	
0	FACILITY POLICY NICU ESCALATION DURING HIGH VOLUME PERIODS.pdf Date Attached: Jul 05, 2024	
0	NICU DC-TX-Downgrades 5.11.2024-5.15.2024.docx Date Attached: Jul 09, 2024	
Revise an Add updat	d Update tes to the original application.	
	o submit this application and certify under penalty of perjury that my answers ect and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also certify that:	
• I unde	erstand the questions and statements on this application.	
• I unde	erstand the penalties for giving false information.	
	erstand that this acknowledgment has the same legal effect and can be enforced in ame way as a written signature.	
• I am a	authorized to submit this application on behalf of the licensee.	
• This a	application does not include any patient identifying or personnel information.	

This Information provided on this form is mandatory and is necessary for waiver approval. It will be used to determine whether to approve the request for a waiver. The information in your application is considered public information and may be disclosed as part of a public records act request.*

