



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**California Department of Public Health**



Mar 20, 2024

[REDACTED]  
Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Orange County - Anaheim  
3440 E La Palma Ave  
Anaheim, CA 92806

**FACILITY: Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Orange County - Anaheim, LICENSE # 060000091**

**APPROVAL OF PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY FOR FLEX-7365**

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is in response to the request submitted by **Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Orange County - Anaheim** for program flexibility for California Code of Regulations T22 DIV5 CH1 ART8-70805.

The alternative means of compliance with T22 DIV5 CH1 ART8-70805 include

Request to use 20 beds in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for lower acuity step-down patients and maintaining a minimum nurse-to-patient staffing ratio of 1:3.

- Currently, rooms 201-240 are licensed as ICU beds
- Request to continue using beds 201-220 as step-down
- Patients utilizing the flexed ICU beds are those specified in the policy and procedure titled "Admission Criteria to Definitive Observation Unit (DOU) or Stepdown Unit (SDU)"

Center for Health Care Quality  
Centralized Program Flex Unit (CPFU)  
P.O. Box 997377 MS 3405 Sacramento, CA 95899-7377  
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- Staffing for step-down patients will be maintained as 1:3 or fewer as required
- Permanent signage to denote the designated lower acuity patient area from designated ICU beds is maintained
- The ICU visiting guidelines are maintained in both the ICU and designated Step-Down beds
- Documentation is available within the ICU at all times showing staffing on all shifts, denoting the patient acuity/classification of all patients in the ICU (ICU and step-down patients)
- There is no mixing of nurse/patient assignments between the ICU and the step-down beds
- The current hospital's processes are implemented to transfer all lower acuity patients to the appropriate floors if the flexed beds in the ICU are needed for ICU patients.
- The step-down is staffed by ICU-trained and competent nurses to ensure staffing for the ICU ratios on a 24-hour 7-day week basis in case the flexed ICU beds need to be converted back for use by ICU patients.

Your request for program flexibility of **T22 DIV5 CH1 ART8-70805** is approved under the following conditions:

1. Hospital approved to use twenty (20) single occupancy intensive care unit (ICU) beds as overflow for single occupancy step-down patient care in the following rooms: 201-220. There will be no ICU patients placed in these beds/rooms. Placement in these rooms will be made in consideration of infection prevention and health and safety of the patients and others in each room. The following beds will continue to be used to care for ICU patients: 221-240.
2. Hospital will ensure that staff and care delivered in this space will be under the leadership of the intensive care and step-down nursing and medical leadership.

3. Hospital will ensure signage is visible placed to clearly designate the flexed space.
4. Hospital will ensure compliance with nursing unit requirements per Title 22, section 70049.
5. Hospital will ensure the unit will be staffed per ICU and step-down ratios per Title 22, section 70217. The staff assigned to care of an ICU patient will not be assigned to care for a step down patient, at the same time. There will be no mixing of patient assignments.
6. Hospital will provide an orientation to the unit and furnish documentation to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), upon request.
7. Hospital will ensure that nurses and staff will be assigned tasks and/or patient care assignments within their scope of licensure, experience, training, and competence. Documentation will be provided to CDPH upon request. The nursing staff will be cross-trained in both ICU and step-down competencies and hospital policies and procedures for each unit, if caring for both patient populations, not at the same time.
8. Hospital will ensure that appropriate equipment and supplies are available to provide services in accordance with current policies and procedures and needs of the patient.
9. Hospital will ensure current emergency response plans and safe rapid response/code blue response and maintain a crash cart available at all times.
10. Hospital will ensure patient privacy is maintained and clear access and egress of patients, personnel, equipment, and supplies will be maintained at all times.
11. Hospital will ensure electrical, medical gases, call light, space, and related equipment to meet each patient's designated level of care.

12. Hospital will ensure pharmacy regulations and policies and procedures are followed, including safe (a) storage, (b) ordering/prescribing, (c) transcribing and verifying, (d) dispensing and delivering, (e) administering, and (f) monitoring and reporting.
13. Hospital will develop and ensure a safety toileting and hygiene (showering) plan to include fall risk assessment and mitigations for the step-down patients cared for in ICU beds.
14. Hospital will ensure adequate dietary, nutrition, linen supplies and environmental (housekeeping) services are provided for the patients cared for in this space.
15. Hospital shall follow infection control guidelines from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and CDPH or local health department.
16. Hospital will submit a project request to California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) and Centralized Applications Branch (CAB) if this is an operational change for long term use. If a project is not submitted to HCAI, the facility may not be approved for a subsequent program flexibility for the use of this space to care for step-down patients.

Either this letter or a true copy thereof shall be posted immediately adjacent to the facility's license.

This approval shall remain in effect from Apr 11, 2024 until Apr 10, 2025.

**NOTE:** The Department may revoke the program flexibility if the licensee does not comply with the conditions set forth in the approval or if the department determines the proposed alternative does not adequately meet the intent of the regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact Centralized Program Flex Unit at (916) 323-5053 or by email at [CentralizedProgramFlex@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CentralizedProgramFlex@cdph.ca.gov).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sevrine A. Banks'.

Sevrine A. Banks, Program Manager  
Centralized Program Flex Unit