

Understanding What an Observation Stay Means

When faced with a medical situation that requires immediate attention but doesn't quite warrant a full hospital admission, patients may find themselves placed under an "observation stay." Below we take a closer look at what an "observation stay" in a hospital means and why it matters.



What is an Observation Stay?

An observation stay in a hospital is a short-term period during which medical professionals closely monitor a patient's condition to gain a comprehensive understanding of their health status. This period typically lasts less than 48 hours, though it can be extended based on the patient's needs and the hospital's policies.

Why is it Important?

Observation stays are essential because they help the doctors know how to treat you best. They check how sick you are and what kind of care you need. It's a way to make sure you get the right treatment without staying in the hospital for too long if you don't need to.

What Happens During an Observation Stay?

When you're under observation, you'll get special attention from the hospital staff. You might stay in a specific area just for observation or in the emergency department. They'll take care of you, keep an eye on your progress, and give you any needed treatments.

Talk with the Healthcare Team

It is essential for you and your family to communicate openly with the healthcare team during this period. Being informed about the observations made, tests conducted, and the potential treatment plan allows you to make informed decisions about your health.

Insurance Considerations

Unlike regular hospital admissions, observation stays may not always come with the same insurance benefits, leading to potential out-of-pocket expenses. This is why it is important for you to discuss your insurance coverage with the healthcare team and insurance providers beforehand to gain clarity on the costs involved.

Need a break? Our short-term respite relief program provides you with temporary relief while ensuring that your loved one is well taken care of in a safe and secure environment. Please select one of our locations by visiting www.covliving.org/locations to connect with one of our Healthcare Navigators and learn more about our short-term respite stay options.