

Navigating the Intricacies of Hospital Observation Stays

When a health issue strikes that requires urgent care, but is not severe enough for a full hospital stay, you may find yourself in what's known as an "observation stay." Let's explain in a simpler way what this means and why it's important.



What is an Observation Stay?

An observation stay at the hospital is a short time when healthcare professionals keep a close watch on your health situation. Generally, this period is less than two days, but it can be longer depending on what you need and the hospital's rules.

Why is it Important?

Observation stays are important because they help your doctor figure out the best way to help you. They see how sick you are and the kind of care you need. It's a method to ensure you receive the right care without staying in the hospital longer than necessary.

What Happens During an Observation Stay?

When you're under observation, the hospital staff focuses on your care. You might be in a specific area for observation or in the emergency room. They will look after you, monitor how you're doing, and provide any treatments you might need.

Communication is Key

It's crucial for you and your loved ones to talk openly with the healthcare team during this time. Knowing about the observations, tests, and potential treatment plans helps you make educated decisions about your health.

Insurance Considerations

A significant thing to remember is that observation stays might not always be covered the same way as full hospital stays by insurance. This could mean you have to pay some costs yourself. This is why it's important to talk about your insurance coverage with the healthcare team and your insurance company before treatment, so you know what costs you might face.

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.