

Klickitat Valley Health			
Policy/Procedure Name:	Patient Admissions Information		
Department/Scope:	District-wide		
Most recent review/revision date:	1/26/2026	Pages:	3

Purpose and/or Policy Statement:

Patient Admissions Information

Our Commitment to You

Klickitat Valley Health is committed to providing safe, respectful, and timely access to hospital services for all patients. This information explains how admissions, observation services, and patient placement decisions are made, and what you can expect when you come to KVH for care.

Services Available Through Admissions

Our Patient Access Services team assists patients with registration and admission for a wide range of hospital services, including:

- Emergency department care
- Laboratory and diagnostic imaging services, including X-ray, CT, MRI, ultrasound, mammography, and other diagnostic studies
- Short-stay procedures and surgeries
- Physical, Occupational, Speech and Respiratory therapies
- Medication administration
- Observation services
- Inpatient hospital admissions

Inpatient Admission Criteria

Admission to the hospital as an inpatient is based on clinical need and medical judgment. Factors considered may include:

- Your medical diagnosis and severity of illness
- The level of monitoring or nursing care required
- The expected length of stay
- Availability of appropriate hospital beds and services
- The judgment of the attending provider

As a Critical Access Hospital, KVH typically admits patients who are expected to require short-term acute care and who can be safely cared for within our available resources.

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Observation Services

Some patients may require a period of observation to determine whether inpatient admission is necessary. Observation services are used when your provider needs additional time to evaluate your condition, monitor your response to treatment, or complete diagnostic testing.

Observation stays are generally short-term and typically do not exceed two midnights. Your care team will explain whether you are being treated under observation status or admitted as an inpatient and what that means for your care.

Swing Bed Admissions

Klickitat Valley Health offers swing bed services for patients who no longer need acute hospital care but continue to require skilled nursing or rehabilitation services. Swing bed admissions allow eligible patients to receive post-acute care in a hospital setting.

Swing bed services may include skilled nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other medically necessary services ordered by a provider.

Eligibility for swing bed admission is based on clinical criteria and applicable Medicare and payer requirements. Your care team will review your medical condition, functional needs, and anticipated length of stay to determine whether swing bed care is appropriate.

If you are admitted to a swing bed, staff will explain the nature of the services provided, your patient status, and any coverage or financial considerations related to your stay.

Patient Placement and Room Assignment

Patient placement within the hospital is coordinated by nursing leadership to support patient safety and appropriate care. Room assignments are made based on factors such as:

- Your diagnosis and care needs
- Age and gender considerations, when applicable
- Infection prevention and safety requirements
- Availability of appropriate rooms

Please be aware that patient rooms at KVH are designed for double occupancy with shared bathrooms. While we make every effort to limit room sharing when possible, changes in patient volume or infection prevention needs may require shared accommodations. When challenges arise related to room assignment or patient placement, KVH staff work collaboratively to resolve them in a manner that prioritizes patient safety and dignity.

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Patient Rights and Information

All patients admitted to KVH receive information about their rights and responsibilities, including a copy of "Your Rights as a Patient." Staff are available to answer questions and provide clarification at any time during your stay.

Non-Discrimination and Access to Care

KVH provides services to all individuals without discrimination. We do not discriminate based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, or source of payment.

Emergency care is provided to anyone who needs it, regardless of the ability to pay.

Questions or Concerns

If you have questions about the admission process, your patient status, or your rights, please speak with a member of your care team, a supervisor, or members of our Quality department. We are here to help support you and your family throughout your care experience at Klickitat Valley Health.

References:

Washington State Legislature. (2024). *RCW 70.41.520: Admission policies and practices*. <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70.41.520>

Washington State Department of Health. (2023). *WAC 246-320-141: Admission, transfer, and discharge of patients*. <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=246-320-141>