

Criteria-led discharge

What is criteria-led discharge?

Criteria-led discharge is a process that aims to ensure your child can go home (be discharged) as soon as they are medically ready. Criteria-led discharge has many benefits, including:

- Your child will spend less time in hospital because decisions about going home are made earlier in their stay
- You will spend less time waiting for the decision to let your child go home
- It clearly outlines what is required of both you and your child's healthcare team.

What will happen under criteria-led discharge?

You and your child's healthcare team agree on a set of milestones for your child to achieve. These milestones might include a combination of points such as having a normal temperature or not needing a drip. These milestones will be documented in your child's medical record. The healthcare team will work with your family to meet these milestones so you can leave the hospital as quickly and safely as possible.

How will I know my child has met the agreed milestones?

A senior staff member will monitor your child to confirm that your child has met all the milestones. If there are no outstanding issues, your child will be able to go home without seeing your child's doctor for a final time. If there are any concerns, your child's doctor will be asked to review him or her before they are discharged.

Does this mean my child will not see a doctor at all?

No. A doctor will continue to see your child regularly

throughout their hospital stay. Your child will not be discharged until these milestones have been reached and confirmed by a senior staff member.

The four-step process

1

Talk with your doctor

Your doctor will discuss criteria-led discharge with you to make sure you and the child's doctor agree to the process.

2

Develop criteria

There will be an agreed set of milestones that your child will meet in order to leave the hospital.

3

Progress monitored

A senior staff member monitors your child to ensure the agreed milestones are reached.

4

Discharge

You are able to leave the hospital without having to wait to see your child's doctor.

Before you leave the hospital, please make sure you:

- Understand the plan for you to manage at home (e.g. medications, follow-up care and appointments)
- Ask about medical certificates, and discharge letters

Contact us

The Townsville Hospital and Health Service
100 Angus Smith Drive, Douglas, QLD 4814
T: 4433 1111 (24 hours, 7 days)

In an emergency, always call 000.

