

Criteria-led discharge

What is criteria-led discharge?

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

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

What will happen under criteria-led discharge?

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

How will I know if I have met the agreed milestones?

- A senior staff member will monitor you to confirm that you have met all the milestones.
- If there are no outstanding issues, you will be able to go home without seeing your doctor for a final time.
- If there are any concerns, your doctor will be asked to see you before you are discharged.

Does this mean I will not see a doctor at all?

No. A doctor will continue to see you throughout your hospital stay. You 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 your doctor agree to the process.

2

Develop criteria

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

3

Progress monitored

A senior staff member monitors you to ensure the milestones are reached.

4

Discharge

You are able to leave the hospital without having to wait to see your 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

If you have any questions please phone 4433 1111 (24 hours, 7 days). **In an emergency, always call 000.**

