



**UNMH Adult Emergency Department Observation Unit**

The table below lists the UNMH Adult Emergency Department Observation Unit admission indications. Admission to the Observation Unit is at the sole discretion of the Emergency Medicine Attending and has a *maximum time of 24 hours*.

To meet inclusion criteria for admission to the Adult Emergency Department Observation Unit patients must:

- *Be candidates for observation at the discretion of the Emergency Medicine Attending*
- Have one of the primary admission indications below (other primary diagnoses do not qualify for observation)
- Be greater than or equal to 18 years old
- Be expected to have clinical improvement such that they may be discharged in 24 hours

In general, patients with risk factors for mortality are not good observation candidates. Exercise caution before admitting patients to the Emergency Department Observation Unit with the following conditions: pregnancy, immunocompromised state, sepsis, ESRD/dialysis, ESLD, CHF, active cancer, organ transplant, airway compromise, chronically high home oxygen use (>3L/min NC), etc.

Observation Category	Observation Unit Primary Admission Indication
Cardiology	Chest Pain Syncope
Neurology	TIA
Neurosurgery	TBI
Orthopedics	Compartment Syndrome Surgical Hand or Foot Infection (waiting OR decision) Thoracic or Lumbar Fracture (waiting TLSO)
Medicine	Allergic Reaction Anemia (waiting transfusion) Asthma Exacerbation Cellulitis COPD Exacerbation DVT (non-massive) Intoxication PE (low risk) Pharyngitis Placement Pyelonephritis
Trauma	Concussion Pneumothorax

\*\*\*See indication-specific observation guidelines for more details.\*\*\*