

Call Coverage

What guidelines should I follow when covering call for another physician?

We recommend that you:

- Be sure the covering physician is of the same specialty or competent in the particular area of medicine.
- Provide backup consultants.
- Advise hospitalized patients of covering physicians and the length of time they will be covering.
- Verify the covering physician's hospital privileges, the procedures he/she is credentialed for and his/her familiarity with hospital routines.
- Review hospitalized patients' current status and any problems with the covering physician.
- Caution the covering physician against prescribing or refilling medication over the telephone. When a refill is necessary, advise the covering physician to prescribe only enough medication to last until the primary physician returns.
- Advise the covering physician of the office patients who may call and require attention.
- After returning, discuss with the covering physician any changes in condition, therapies or special situations, etc.

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