



1001 E. Fayette Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Catherine E. Pugh, Mayor
Leana S. Wen, M.D., M.Sc., Commissioner of Health

MEMORANDUM

TO: ED Chairs/Directors

FROM: Dr. Shelly Choo, Senior Medical Advisor and Dr. Leana Wen, Health Commissioner

SUBJECT: Baltimore City Emergency Department Discharge Best Practices

DATE: March 21, 2018

We thank you for your existing efforts to ensure patients have a safe discharge. As a convener of social service and hospital providers, the Baltimore City Health Department is providing formal guidance on best practices for Emergency Department (ED) discharges in Baltimore City. We recognize and acknowledge the challenges in planning a safe patient discharge, and are providing resources in the attached document.

- 1) All patients will be assessed for accommodations suitable for a safe discharge.
 - a. If the accommodations are not suitable for a safe discharge, then a social work or case manager consult must be called.
- 2) All patients will be assessed for transportation to their discharge location.
 - a. If transportation is not readily available, assistance will be provided.
- 3) All patients will be discharged with adequate outerwear, clothing and/or shoes for the expected weather exposure.
- 4) Patients with an opioid use disorder will receive the following upon discharge:
 - a. Baltimore City Standing Order Prescription
 - b. Information about harm reduction practices, overdose response, and Baltimore 24/7 behavioral health hotline
 - c. Two doses of naloxone if available.
- 5) All hospitals should provide their ED staff members annual training on the following topics:
 - a. Homelessness including the location and limitations of shelters or services for those who are homeless
 - b. Addiction and mental health resources including the 24/7 Crisis, Information & Referral hotline 410-433-5175
 - c. Trauma-informed care if available.