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Director and State Public Health Officer

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May 01, 2026

Cheryl Zuniga
Rady Children's Hospital Orange County
1201 W La Veta Ave
Orange, CA 92868

FACILITY: Rady Children's Hospital Orange County, LICENSE # 060000011

APPROVAL OF PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY FOR FLEX-13522

Dear Cheryl Zuniga,

This letter is in response to the request submitted by **Rady Children's Hospital Orange County** for program flexibility for California Code of Regulations T22 DIV5 CH1 ART8-70805.

The alternative means of compliance with T22 DIV5 CH1 ART8-70805 include

Rady Children's Hospital of Orange County (RCHOC) respectfully requests regulatory flexibility to optimize patient flow and throughput within the Emergency Department (ED) by utilizing designated areas in the ED lobby and waiting room for five (5) triage stations. Plans include:

- Five (5) triage stations with portable vital sign machines and appropriate supplies within the ED lobby and waiting area.
- Clear signage will be posted to designate all triage stations, and entrances and exits will remain unobstructed at all times.



- Hours of Operation: 24/7.
- Inclusion Criteria: All patients presenting to the Emergency Department, except those meeting exclusion criteria.
- Exclusion Criteria: Patients exhibiting clear, life-threatening conditions or high risk behaviors.
- Provide daily leadership oversight and monitor the area to ensure adequate staffing for patient volume, along with sufficient supplies and equipment.
- All staff working in the area will receive orientation to the space.
- At a minimum, a Registered Nurse (RN) will be assigned to the triage area and will not be counted toward staffing ratios.
- Medical gases, suction, and all essential supplies will be immediately available.
- Adequate supplies and equipment will be readily available and provided to patients as needed.
- Crash carts are available in the Emergency Department, and the Code Critical process will be activated for any emergency situation.
- The existing triage exam rooms will be utilized as follows: Rooms A and B for examination and treatment, and Room C for resuscitation.
- Security protocols will be upheld to ensure the safety of patients, families, staff, and all individuals present.

Your request for program flexibility of **T22 DIV5 CH1 ART8-70805** is approved under the following conditions:

1. Hospital may use five (5) designated areas in the emergency department lobby for nursing triage stations; the triage spaces are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Use of these spaces must be made in consideration of infection prevention and the health and safety of the patients and others in each room. The patients in this area must be under the oversight of nursing and medical leadership for the emergency department.

2. Hospital may commence use of the triage spaces, once an approved form 850 for fire clearance for the five triage spaces has been submitted to the Centralized Program Flex Unit. Hospital must submit the fire clearance via form 850 by May 30, 2026 to the Centralized Program Flex Unit.
3. Hospital must maintain compliance with universal precautions, hand hygiene procedures, and infection control procedures as delineated in hospital policies and procedures. Hospital infection control preventionist must review access to handwashing stations and sanitation units. Hospital infection control preventionist must validate as adequate the hand hygiene procedures planned for the additional five triage areas.
4. Hospital shall operate the additional triage spaces only while the hospital is at capacity, as defined by the hospital, and shall maintain a record of the date, time, shift and staff assignment when the space allocation begins and ends.
5. Hospital must ensure signage is visible placed to clearly designate the flexed space. Ensure movement in, out, and around the room is clear and unobstructed.
6. Hospital must ensure patient privacy is maintained and clear access and egress of patients, personnel, equipment, and supplies must be maintained at all times.
7. Hospital must ensure medical gases, patient call procedures, staff emergency calls procedures, space, and related equipment is readily accessible to meet each patient's need.
8. Hospital must ensure compliance with nursing unit requirements per Title 22, section 70049.
9. Hospital must ensure the unit will be staffed per nursing staff Title 22, section 70217 for emergency services.
10. Hospital must provide an orientation to the unit and furnish documentation of this orientation to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) upon request.

11. Hospital must ensure that nurses and staff will be assigned tasks within their scope of licensure, experience, training, and competence.
12. Hospital must ensure that appropriate equipment and supplies are available to provide services in accordance with current policies and procedures and age-appropriate needs of the patient.
13. Hospital must ensure a safe rapid response/code blue response and maintain a crash cart available at all times, which are age appropriate.
14. Hospital must ensure pharmacy regulations and policies and procedures are followed, including safe (a) storage, (b) ordering/prescribing, (c) transcribing and verifying, (d) dispensing and delivering, (e) administering, and (f) monitoring and reporting.
15. Hospital shall follow infection control guidelines from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and CDPH or local health department.
16. Hospital must continue to provide necessary care in accordance with patient needs and make all reasonable efforts to act in the best interest of patients.

Either this letter or a true copy thereof shall be posted immediately adjacent to the facility's license.

This approval shall remain in effect from May 01, 2026 until May 01, 2029.

NOTE: The Department may revoke the program flexibility if the licensee does not comply with the conditions set forth in the approval or if the department determines the proposed alternative does not adequately meet the intent of the regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact Centralized Program Flex Unit at (916) 323-5053 or by email at CentralizedProgramFlex@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Danielle Boles

Danielle Boles, Program Manager
Centralized Program Flex Unit

