

Hospital Name:

Kaiser Foundation Hospital –
Sacramento/Roseville-Morse

Address:

2025 Morse Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825

Contact:

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2006 ED Volume: 45,034
Growth from 2005: -0.4%
Total Staffed Hospital Beds: 333
Acute ED Beds: 36
Fast Track: no
Clinical Decision Unit: no

Problem to be Resolved:

Patient parking in the ED and
recovery areas as patients await
inpatient beds

Key Words:

- Patient parking
- Discharge

Lessons Learned:

By identifying which patients
will likely be ready to be
discharged the following day,
preparations can be made so
that these patients can be
discharged in a timely manner
earlier in the day.

Reason for Change:

Patient parking in the emergency department and the recovery room following surgeries was becoming a problem at Kaiser Foundation Hospital – Sacramento/Roseville-Morse. Staff set out to determine what factors were delaying the placement of these patients into inpatient beds, and what could be done to facilitate this process.

Implementation:

An analysis of the patient flow process revealed that the problem with finding an available inpatient bed for patients from the ED and surgical unit was the fact that the majority of all discharges and admissions occur during the evening shift. If some of these patients could be discharged earlier in the day, then more beds would be available for patients needing admission.

The hospital set a goal of having 40 percent of all discharges happen before 11:00 am. Discharge rounds now take place at 11:30 am, to begin the process of the following day's discharges. During these rounds, they identify which patients are likely to be discharged the following day, so that they can make sure that all necessary work is completed ahead of time, and a time can be scheduled for these patients to be discharged the following morning.

Results/Impact:

In October of 2005, Kaiser achieved its goal of having 40 percent of discharges before 11:00 am.