

**ECU Physicians Administration
Brody School of Medicine
East Carolina University**

Title: Referrals within ECU Physicians	
Section No. 2	Section Name: Clinical
Approval Date: 07/05/11	Approval: Paul R.G. Cunningham, M.D., Dean

I. Purpose

ECU Physicians provides extensive clinical expertise spanning the primary care and many subspecialty disciplines. Physicians, advanced practice providers, and many other licensed professionals collaborate to provide the highest quality patient care for their patients. The expertise and capacity to refer patients internally to other providers within ECU Physicians is routinely available. By using these internal referral routes, our providers help assure the following goals are met:

- The continuity of care for the patient is maintained within ECU Physicians;
- The stress and confusion of the patient and their family is mitigated;
- Patient safety is improved;
- The opinion, management plan, and follow-up with the consulting provider is more accessible to the referring provider;
- The ECU Physicians clinical enterprise is strengthened; and
- The community at large is better served.

II. Policy

It is the policy of ECU Physicians that when an ECU Physicians provider refers a patient for care beyond the scope of that provider the referral will be to another ECU Physicians provider. ECU Physicians recognizes that certain situations may call for exception to this policy, specifically this policy does not apply if:

- The patient has an existing provider-patient relationship outside of ECU Physicians that must be considered;
- The patient expresses a preference for a provider outside of ECU Physicians;
- The clinical services needed by the patient are not available within the full scope of ECU Physicians;
- The patient's healthcare insurance determines the provider of services for the patient;
- The referral is not in the patient's best medical interests in the provider's judgment; or
- The provider's referral decisions are directed by other pre-determined operational factors, e.g., a call schedule for the facility in which the patient is seen.

It is the policy of ECU Physicians that the Provider shall not receive any compensation or remuneration for any referrals. ECU and the Provider support a patient's right to select the medical facility or facilities of the patient's choice and to receive care in the most appropriate medical setting.

Recommending Body	Signature	Date:
ECU Physicians Board of Directors		
Effective Date: 08/01/11	Contact Person/Reference Source: Medical Director, ECU Physicians	Extension: 4-7400
Revision/Review Date:	Revision/Review Person/ Source: Medical Director, ECU Physicians	Page 1 of 1