



Mission: Serve the needs of our physician members so they can better serve the needs of the community

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

You may have seen in the news recently a new admissions policy that is being considered by NCH Hospitals (links below). If implemented, this policy will have a significant impact on the patient's right to choose the physician who leads his/her treatment plan, should they need hospitalization. As an advocate for my patients' health and the overall health of the community, I want you to understand how this decision affects patients.

If NCH Hospitals adopts the admissions policy that is being piloted right now, patients will no longer have the freedom to choose their admitting physician – whether it is the patient's own general practitioner, or a trusted hospitalist.

- A patient's own physician or team will not be able to direct the care needed if admitted to NCH.
- A new physician may be assigned, who does not know the patient or the patient's physicians.
- This NCH medical team will not have access to outpatient records.
- Even if their own physician can visit in the hospital, he/she will not be allowed to order any tests or treatment and will not be able to make any entries in patient charts to communicate with the patient's assigned team.

A recent study showed that patients who received care from their primary care physicians during hospitalization were more likely to be discharged to their homes, with higher 30-day survival rates.

Additionally, patients will likely experience less stress and anxiety on admission when their own physicians participate in their treatment.

We would like your help to keep Collier County one of the healthiest counties in Florida. Please take a minute to share your concerns about maintaining your right to choose your physician by signing the petition at <https://bit.ly/2zx2UnM> and sending a letter to the editor at *Naples Daily News* (sample & instructions below).

Sincerely,  
Cesar De Leon, D.O., CCMS President

News on the policy: *Naples Daily News* article - <https://bit.ly/2yKOBwh> | WINK News - <https://bit.ly/2RwyZ6B>  
Commentary in *Naples Daily News* - <https://bit.ly/2PB3B9N>

Here is a sample letter to the editor for you to customize and submit online at [static.naplesnews.com/letters-to-the-editor/](http://static.naplesnews.com/letters-to-the-editor/) or email to [letters@naplesnews.com](mailto:letters@naplesnews.com).

To whom it may concern:

I recently read about NCH Hospital's new policy that will prevent me from choosing my admitting physician. I am concerned that will leave me under the care of a doctor that does not have my full patient history and may not know the best course of treatment for me.

While, I understand that my doctor may visit me in the hospital, they will have no ability to record notes, order tests, or advocate for me in an official capacity.

**(INSERT PERSONAL ANECDOTE)**

I have built a long-standing relationship with my doctor, who understands my culture, my treatment preferences, and has a complete picture of my overall health.

I urge the leaders at NCH Hospital to reconsider this policy and allow all Collier County residents to maintain our right to choose our course of medical treatment through a doctor whom we know and trust.

Sincerely,  
**NAME**