

Hospital admissions restricted effective Friday

By Melinda Norris

Non-emergency patients who cannot show in advance how they plan to pay their bills will not be admitted into University Hospital at the NU Medical Center effective Friday, said hospital administrator Robert Baker.

The new policy is expected to affect 10 to 15 patients a month. The change was prompted by a reduction in state funds and an increase in indigent patient care, Baker said.

It was approved by the NU Board of Re-

gents in May and affects inpatients only. Outpatients and emergency cases will not be restricted.

Previously the hospital has had no restrictions on admittance, Baker said. The cost for indigent patient care has been covered by the state, he said.

However during the last four years, state funding for University Hospital has decreased by \$2 million, while the cost for treating the poor has increased by the same amount. As the funds have been reduced, the cost has been absorbed by the paying patient.

During fiscal year 1980-81, the cost of indigent care totaled about \$5.5 million, he said.

Patients refused admission can apply to the county for aid. State law places responsibility on the county to determine indigency and to pay for care, Baker said.

"But the counties haven't worked out an adequate definition of indigency," Baker said. "Ten to 15 people a month will not be able to receive county support."

The number of indigent patients is expected to increase considering the cuts in federal, state and county support, Baker said.

Cuts in the Aid to Dependent Children program by the Reagan Administration reduces the number of patients eligible for Medicaid, Baker said. ADC is a primary eligibility criteria for Medicaid, he explained.

In Nebraska, 13,731 families are on ADC, Baker said. The 17 percent reduction is expected to disqualify 2,300 families, he said.

Elected representatives must provide adequate resources to fulfill a patient's right to health care, Baker said.

"The government cuts back on taxation," Baker said, "but maybe an individual will not receive health care. We haven't told them what's important to us, but just to cut back."

The reduction in ADC will mean a yearly loss in reimbursement to University Hospital of \$1 million.

"Most hospitals provide charity care but University Hospital provides about three times more than a typical community hospital," Baker said.

"A hospital is to provide health care," Baker said, "not finance health care."



Photo by Mark Billingsley

As Wednesday's temperatures dropped sharply and blue skies turned gray, the moods of Michelle Stroh and Sue Hulbert seemed to follow suit.

Avery: Polish values crucial

By William Graf

Unless the Polish Communist Party can align itself with the dominant Polish value system, instability will continue, a UNL associate professor of political science said.

William Avery, who spent August 1980 through June 1981 in Poland, said that such alignment would provoke the Russians to intervene.

However intervention would have several repercussions that the Russians would have to consider.

Poland is a valuable buffer to the West. "A major change could expose Russia and particularly East Germany," he said.

"Second, a major change would have an impact on the Soviet military strategy in Europe. A change could scrub that strategy and Moscow's ability to conduct a war in Europe."

A third repercussion would have economic implications for Russia and its allies.

"Eastern Europe is heavily dependent on Poland for coal and semi-finished goods for their factories."

Also in the long run the "Polish disease" could have a contagious effect on other Eastern European countries and Russia itself, he said.

"There are reports of labor unrest, although these are not widespread, in several Soviet cities and other countries in Eastern Europe, particularly Romania," he said.

Intervention would also erode any chance of stabilization of U.S.-Soviet relations; kill a future SALT agreement, which would lead to an unrestrained arms race, and kill chances for the Soviets to salvage detente in Europe.

"It would also lead to increases in defense spending in the United States and NATO. It would virtually assure the deployment by NATO of Pershing II and



Photo by Mark Billingsley

William Avery

Cruise missiles. It would almost certainly encourage greater military cooperation between the United States and the People's Republic of China.

"It would almost certainly create a split in Western European Communist parties, particularly in Italy and create greater cohesion in NATO."

"I sometimes wonder if perhaps the Reagan administration doesn't secretly hope for some intervention in Poland, just to get this result," he said.

Avery said he believes the Russians fear massive bloodshed and mutinies among Polish army units.

Avery said that the Polish values that don't coincide with the Communist party's include Polish religious beliefs, democratic elections and dissent, equality and Polish nationalism. Anti-Soviet sentiments have existed in Poland for nearly 300 years.

Avery's speech was the first of several to be sponsored by the International Relations Club. In two weeks UNL political science professor Ivan Volgyes will talk about U.S.-Soviet relations in the 1980s.

Changes expected as Five-Year Plan examined

By Laure Perlinger

Revision of UNL's Five-Year Plan is currently underway, as several groups provide ideas about priorities and goals for the final plan, to be submitted to the NU Board of Regents in December.

The plan is intended to provide an on going planning process for the campus. In the fall of 1980, the planning process was established to ensure faculty, student and staff participation in seeking proposals for consideration in the plan.

John Strong, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs, said that this summer the regents changed the deadline for the plan's revision from spring of 1982 to December 1981.

"The regents wanted the plan completed in time to be used as a basis for budget decisions," Strong said.

Before the revision is completed by Chancellor Martin Massengale, who Strong said is ultimately responsible for the new draft, the Faculty Senate, the Academic Planning Committee and college deans, among others, will provide opinions and criticisms.

Comments from the deans of the colleges of engineering and Arts and Sciences were to be heard Wednesday afternoon by the APC.

The APC is involved in collecting information from the college deans about long-range planning, enrollment trends and the importance of a graduate program for their respective colleges, Strong said.

The chancellor also will discuss the plan with ASUN officers, and public hearings are probable, Strong said.

After completion by the chancellor, the revised draft will be sent to the regents for

final approval.

Because of administrative changes that have taken place since June, namely Massengale's appointment as UNL chancellor, Strong said there are bound to be changes made in the plan before December.

Rutford's program priorities as stated in the five-year plan are:

1. Faculty development - maintaining intellectual vitality and creativity.
 2. Student recruitment, admission, advising, retention and enrollment controls.
 3. Strengthening core curriculum in liberal arts.
 4. Continued education, extension and relationships with the people of Nebraska.
 5. Graduate education and research.
- Rutford's support priorities:
1. Library
 2. Supplies and equipment

3. Computer for teaching and research programs.
 4. Budget and data systems
- The plan is revised annually, Strong said.

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