



MedStar Health

3800 Reservoir Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20007
[MedStarHealth.org](https://www.MedStarHealth.org)

**MEDSTAR GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

Outpatient in observation status

When you are a patient at the hospital, the doctor caring for you must determine whether you require care as an inpatient or an outpatient.

The hospital must follow specific medical criteria to determine if you will be admitted as an inpatient or placed in outpatient observation. It is important to understand that these criteria have been developed by Medicare and your insurance carrier and are not at the discretion of your physician or the hospital.

Your doctor may designate your status as an outpatient in observation. This means that you **have not** been admitted as an inpatient to the hospital, even though you are receiving care in the hospital during your brief stay.

If your status is designated as an outpatient in observation at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, your doctor has determined that he/she would like to conduct further testing and medical evaluation of your condition to determine if you need to be admitted as an inpatient.

We'd like to be sure you are aware of the following information while you are designated as an outpatient in observation:

- The quality of care you receive as an outpatient in observation is exactly the same as the care you would receive if you were admitted as an inpatient.
- You may be responsible for additional out-of-pocket expenses, such as co-payments, deductibles, and the cost of certain medications in line with your insurance plan's outpatient coverage. If you have questions about your coverage, please contact your insurance company.

If you have any questions regarding your status as an outpatient in observation, please speak with your care team.

Thank you for choosing MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and for trusting us with your care.



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It's how we treat people.