

## Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library

### Presbyterian Hospital patient records

#### **PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL (NEW YORK, N.Y.)**

**Patient records, 1872-1929, 1941-circa 1970s.**

**69 cubic feet (58 vols. and 54 records cartons)**

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Presbyterian Hospital was established in 1868 by philanthropist and book collector James Lenox who intended that the new hospital accept all patients “without regard to race, creed, or color.” It opened in October 1872 on a site bounded by Madison and Park Avenues, 70th and 71st Streets. Presbyterian affiliated with Columbia University in 1911 to form the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, which opened in 1928 in Manhattan’s Washington Heights neighborhood.

In 1925, Presbyterian Hospital took control of Sloane Hospital for Women and the Vanderbilt Clinic and affiliated with Babies Hospital and the Neurological Institute of New York, all of which relocated to the Columbia-Presbyterian campus in 1928-1929. In 1945, the New York Orthopaedic Hospital merged with Presbyterian and moved to the Medical Center five years later.

Presbyterian Hospital and New York Hospital merged on Dec. 31, 1997 to form New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

**ORGANIZATION:** From 1872-1905, casebooks are in chronological order by date of admission. From 1906 to 1912, they were arranged by disease according to the *Bellevue Nomenclature of Disease* (“Bellevue Classification”) and then chronologically by admission date. In 1912, the Bellevue system was dropped and the casebooks were arranged consecutively by case number which generally followed date of admission.

On Jan. 1, 1916, Presbyterian became the first large U.S. hospital to institute the “unit record system” where patients received a permanent unit number under which all records of their treatment were retained.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** An incomplete set of records of patients treated at Presbyterian Hospital. The 1872-1915 casebooks contain medical cases only; surgical cases were bound separately. During this period, a new record was created for the patient upon each admission. With the introduction of the unit record system in 1916, information on medical and surgical treatment provided to a patient during all admissions to the hospital was filed under the same unit number.

Content varies tremendously over the century documented here. Older records generally have less information than newer ones. As the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed, basic information about medical treatment is supplemented with temperature charts, laboratory and radiology reports, nurses’ and social workers’ notes, photographs, and x-rays.

**ACCESS:** Because the records include Confidential Health Information (CHI) as defined by Columbia University policies governing data security and privacy, access is allowed only under the terms of Archives and Special Collections' [\*Access Policy to Records Containing Protected Health Information.\*](#)

Because of staff constraints and the lack of a name index, Archives & Special Collections cannot search for individual records. Microfilm of much of Presbyterian's post-1928 patient records are held by the [\*New York-Presbyterian Hospital Dept. of Health Information Management\*](#); persons wishing to locate the records of individuals should contact them.

**Boxes are stored off-site and will take 1-2 days to retrieve. Researchers must contact the department in advance to use the collection.**

**LANGUAGE:** English.

**RELATED RECORDS:** Presbyterian Hospital surgical casebooks, 1875-1896, 1905-1915 (299 volumes) have been cataloged separately.

**PROVENANCE:** Gift of the New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Dept. of Health Information Management, 2000 (acc. #2000.07.05; #2000.08.24); gift of John Loeb, M.D. (acc.#2004.11.09)

## **SUBJECTS**

Hospital patients – New York (State) – New York.  
Hospitals – New York (State) – New York.  
Medicine – Practice – United States – 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
Medicine – Practice – United States – 20<sup>th</sup> century.  
Presbyterian Hospital (New York, N.Y.)  
Medical records.  
NYPresbyterian Hospital.

Processed by Henry Blanco and finding aid written by Stephen Novak, 2006.

**Presbyterian Hospital.**  
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**I. Case Books: Chronological**

v.1	1872 – 1875	
v.2	7/1875 – 2/1877	
v.6	4/9/1879 – 12/27/1880	
v.29	8/12/1891 – 8/31/1891	
v.68	9/28/1895 – 10/31/1895	
v.88	4/22/1897 – 5/29/1897	
v.100	2/7/1898 – 3/7/1898	1101-1200
v.119	6/19/1899 – 7/15/1899	3001-3100
v.163	5/11/1902 – 6/[ ]/1902	7401-7500
v.209	11/14/1905 – 12/31/1905	12001-12100

**II. Case Books: Bellevue Classification** (all volumes date from Jan. 1, 1906 to April 1, 1912)

- v.1     *Diseases of the Blood:*  
Anaemia, Progressive, Pernicious  
Chlorosis  
Splenic Anaemia, Chronic  
Anaemia, Secondary, Pernicious  
Leukaemia  
Polycythemia
- v.4     *Diseases of the Circulatory System:*  
Heart: Congenital Malformation of the Heart  
Endocarditis
- v.5     *Diseases of the Circulatory System:*  
Heart: Aneurysm, Cardiac  
Dilation, Cardiac  
Fatty Heart  
Hypertrophy, Cardiac  
Myocarditis
- v.6     *Valvular Disease:*  
Cardiac Clinic, v.1  
Cases 1-80: 3 Jan 1906 – 5 Apr 1907
- v.13    *Diseases of the Circulatory System:*  
Heart, Cont.:  
Pericardium  
Veins

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- v.14 *Diseases of the Digestive System:*  
Intestines:
  - Appendicitis
  - Appendicular Colic
- v.15 *Diseases of the Digestive System:*  
Intestines:
  - Colitis, Enteritis, Gastroduoentitis
- v.16 *Diseases of the Digestive System:*  
Intestines:
  - Enterocolitis
- v.17 [*Diseases of the Digestive System:*]  
Gastroenteritis, v1  
Cases 1-100: 21 Jan 1906 – 23 Jan 1910
- v.19 *Diseases of the Digestive System:*  
Intestines, Cont.
- v.20 *Diseases of the Digestive System:*  
Liver: Abscess of Liver  
Atrophy of Liver  
Cirrhosis of Liver  
Fatty Liver
- v.21 [*Diseases of the Digestive System:*]  
Neoplasm of Liver  
Diseases of Gall Bladder & Ducts
- v.22 *Diseases of the Digestive System:*  
Mouth:Pharynx
  - Salivary Glands
  - Teeth
  - Tongue
  - Tonsils
  - Tonsilar Abscess
  - Oeosophagus
- v.25 *Diseases of the Digestive System:*  
Gastritis, Acute, Catarrhal  
Gastritis, Chronic, Catarrhal

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- v.26 *Diseases of the Digestive System:*  
Stomach:  
Hematemesis  
Neoplasm of Stomach
- v.27 *Diseases of the Digestive System:*  
Stomach:  
Antony, Gastric  
Spasm, Gastric  
Achyilia Gastrica  
Nervous Dyspepsia  
Gastraglia  
Vomiting, Recurrent
- v.35 *Infective Diseases:*  
Malarial Fever, Cases 101-174  
Malarial Cachexia  
Measles  
Mumps  
Scarlet Fever  
Tetanus  
Varicellar  
Whooping Cough
- v.36 [*Infective Diseases:*]  
Rheumatic Fever, Acute, v1  
Cases 1-80: 7 Jan 1906 – 24 Jul 1907
- v.41 *Infective Diseases:*  
Rheumatic Fever, Acute, Cases 311-335  
Rheumatic Fever, Sub-Acute, Cases 101-167  
Pyæmia, Tuberculosis of  
Septicaemia, Tuberculosis of
- v.47 *Infective Diseases:*  
Syphilis, Acquired  
Syphilis, Congenital
- v.56 *Infective Diseases:*  
Typhoid Fever, Cases 731-751  
Typhus Fever  
Tuberculosis, Acute, General

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- v.57    *Diseases of the Kidneys:*  
         Miscellaneous Diseases of the Kidneys
  
- v.63    *Diseases of the Kidneys:*  
         Nephritis, Chronic  
         Interstitial, Cases 361-391  
         Nephritis, Acute
  
- v.69    *[Miscellaneous Diseases]*  
         Diabetes Insipidus  
         Diabetes Mellitus
  
- v.74    *Diseases of the Nervous System:*  
         Meningitis, Cerebral, Cases [101]-140  
         Miscellaneous Diseases of the Brain
  
- v.77    *Diseases of the Nervous System:*  
         Neurasthenia, Cases 100-122  
         Hysteria  
         Idiocy  
         Imbecility  
         Stupor Mental  
         Meniere's Disease  
         Neuralgia
  
- v.78    *Diseases of the Nervous System:*  
         Neuritis Local  
         Neuritis Multiple  
         Paralysis of Nerve Zoster  
         Locomotor Ataxia
  
- v.79    *Diseases of the Nervous System:*  
         Miscellaneous Diseases of the Spinal Cord
  
- v.81    *Poisonings and Intoxications:*  
         Alcoholic Cerebral Oedema  
         Alcoholic Delirium  
         Alcoholism  
         Gastritis, Toxic, Alcoholic  
         Lead Poisoning
  
- v.82    *Poisonings and Intoxications:*  
         Miscellaneous

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- v.83 *Diseases of the Respiratory System:*  
Miscellaneous Diseases of the Bronchi and Trachea
- v.85 *Diseases of the Respiratory System:*  
Bronchitis, Acute, Cases 101-184  
Bronchitis, Chronic
- v.86 [*Diseases of the Respiratory System:*]  
Pneumonia, Broncho, v.1  
Cases 1-100, 12 Jan 1906 – 14 Mar 1909
- v.88 [*Diseases of the Respiratory System:*]  
Pneumonia, Lobar, v.1  
Cases 1-128: 31 Jan 1905 – 31 Dec 1906
- v.98 *Diseases of the Respiratory System:*  
Miscellaneous Diseases of the Lungs
- v.99 [*Diseases of the Respiratory System:*]  
Tuberculosis, Chronic, Pulmonary, v.1  
Cases 1-100, 3 Jan 1906 – 6 Feb 1908
- v.102 *Diseases of the Respiratory System:*  
Miscellaneous Diseases of Naso-Pharynx and Pleura
- v.104 *Diseases of the Respiratory System:*  
Pleurisy:  
Sero-Fibrinous, Cases 81 – 176  
Chronic, Fibrinous
- v.105 Spleen  
Cross-reference  
Diseases of the Mind
- v.106 Gynecological Cases
- v.107 Gynecological Cases
- v.108 *Surgical Diseases:*  
Diseases of Bone  
Ear and Eye Gangrene

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v.110 *Surgical Diseases:*  
Injuries  
Lymphadenitis  
Skin Diseases

v.111 *Surgical Diseases:*  
Neoplasms

**III. Case Books (Chronological)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Div, v.1	4/1/1912 – 5/24/1912	Case # 8185-8300
1 <sup>st</sup> Div, v.21, pt.2	11/2/1914 – 11/27/1914	Case # 12251-12300
1 <sup>st</sup> Div, v [ ]	12/20/1915 – 12/31/1915	Case # 16151-16215
2 <sup>nd</sup> Div, v.11	7/1/1913 – 8/15/1913	Case # 11601-11700

**IV. Case records (unit record system)**

Box	Case Nos.	Dates
<i>Records bound in booklets</i>		
1	30001 – 30067	12/15/1915 – 12/20/1915
2	30068 – 37162	12/22/1915 – 1/22/1918
3	44131 – 52670	3/26/1919 – 1/25/1922
4	52675 – 58354	1/25/1922 – 6/27/1923
5	58365 – 65622	11/3/1923 – 4/23/1926
6	65625 – 68266	4/23/1926 – 3/15/1927
7	68267 – 69692	3/15/1927 – 9/2/1927
8	69695 – 71047	9/3/1927 – 4/5/1928
9	71048 – 72496	4/5/1928 – 7/7/1928
10	72497 – 74327	7/8/1928 – 9/13/1928
11	74331 – 76208	9/13/1928 – 11/11/1928
12	76300 – 79126	11/14/1928 – 2/6/1929



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<b>Box</b>	<b>Case Nos.</b>	<b>Dates</b>
13	79127 – 81468	2/6/1929 – 4/16/1929
14	81652 – 84262	4/27/1929 – 7/2/1929
15	84287 – 86399	7/2/1929 – 9/25/1929
<i>Records Numbered by Date of Admission</i>		
16	642205 – 665551	4/3/1941 – 2/11/1942
17	670660 – 674997	3/27/1942 – 5/8/1942
18	674998 – 683742	5/8/1942 – 7/24/1942
19	683763 – 689864	7/24/1942 – 10/7/1942
20	689935 – 694921	10/7/1942 – 11/21/1942
21	694991 – 699453	12/2/1942 – 1/29/1943
22	699597 – 704867	2/4/1943 – 4/5/1943
23	704868 – 709149	4/5/1943 – 5/22/1943
24	709150 – 713693	5/22/1943 – 6/20/1943
25	713825 – 716791	6/24/1943 – 7/22/1943
26	716805 – 721696	7/22/1943 – 10/12/1943
27	721701 – 726452	9/10/1943 – 11/10/1943
28	726453 – 753308	11/10/1943 – 7/14/1944
29	753490 – 771134	8/2/1944 – 1/17/1945
30	771135 – 791003	1/17/1945 – 6/19/1945
31	791066 – 824875	6/25/1945 – 4/9/1946
32	824876 – 862828	4/9/1946 – 3/24/1947

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<b>Box</b>	<b>Case Nos.</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<i>Records Last Updated in the 1960s and 1970s</i>		
33	023 07 32 – 051 88 44	
34	054 36 52 – 058 88 57	
35	059 10 12 – 066 62 62	
36	066 63 22 – 078 45 78	
37	078 45 94 – 083 08 69	
38	083 09 22 – 084 12 16	
39	084 12 32 – 084 88 51	
40	084 89 60 – 085 86 63	
41	085 87 88 – 085 94 84	
42	086 51 61 – 086 70 85	
43	086 70 94 – 087 06 96	
44	087 07 40 – 087 16 59	
45	087 22 41 – 088 32 91	
46	088 33 21 – 109 50 58	
47	117 89 58 – 139 74 58	
48	143 92 58 – 201 70 58	
<i>Outpatient Department</i>		
49	1-219224	10/2/1912 – 8/20/1929
	2-17986	10/1/1920 – 5/5/1922

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<b>Box</b>	<b>Case Nos.</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<i>Surgical Section Index Cards</i>		
50	1 – 2256	1896-1906
51	2262 – 3650	1896-1906
52	3652 – 5460	1896-1906
53	5483 – 11515	1896-1906
54	11516 – 14554	1896-1906