

## **CAPITAL HEALTH NURSING UNIT PROFILE**

**UNIT:** Post Anesthetic Care Unit (PACU) HI Room #5429

**NURSE MANAGER:** Marion Power

**NURSE EDUCATOR:** Simone Towle

**AREA OF EXPERTISE:** PeriAnesthesia Nursing

**PATIENT POPULATION:** Orthopedics, Plastics, Cardiovascular, Neurosurgery, Trauma, General Surgery, Cardioversions, and emergency Gynecology (after hours)

**PATIENT AGE GROUP (AVERAGE):** Adult population (16-100), occasional child under the age of 16 years

**NUMBER OF BEDS:** Total: (21 bays) 16 bays PACU A + 1 Isolation Room, 4 Bays PACU B

**SKILLS REQUIRED:** Critical care nursing skills  
ICU/PACU nursing skills

(e.g. Cardiac monitoring & rhythm interpretation, care of ventilated patients, central lines, hemodynamic monitoring, radial arterial puncture, arterial monitoring & blood sampling, ICP monitoring, intraventricular & lumbar drains, endotracheal tubes & extubation, venipuncture, initiation of IVs, PCA, neuraxial analgesia, epidurals, chest tubes, direct IV medications, assist with cardioversions, defibrillation, temporary cardiac pacing, etc.)

**ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:** In Patients, Day Patients & Same Day Admit Patients: high patient acuity, critically ill, fast pace, rapid turnover of patients, high stress area, overflows from ICU.

**TYPE OF EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD BE ASSET TO WORK ON THIS UNIT:** PACU/ICU/Emergency Room experience, computer literacy

**RN to LPN ratio:** All RN staff for direct patient care

**STAFFING:** *Staggered* 8 hour shifts: days (0700-2000 hours) 10-14 staff, evenings (1500-2300 hours) 3 staff, standby and callback (2300-0700 hours) 2 staff

**SCHEDULING:** Schedule with 8 hour shifts on days and evenings, 8 hour standby and call back on night shifts.

The unit is operational 7 days a week with staff scheduled for days (07-15 & 11-19) & evenings (15-23) on the weekends and holidays.

**DELIVERY SYSTEM:** 1 RN: 2 patients depending on level of acuity and recovery from anesthesia; nursing care is documented electronically using Horizon Surgical Manager

**MEDICATION SYSTEM:** IV, PCA, epidural, CPNB (continuous peripheral nerve blocks), some im, sc, po & pr medications

Revised September 25, 2012 MP