**Unit Name:** Neurosurgery  
**Unit Location:** 7.3 Halifax Infirmary  
**Program:** Neurosurgery

**Nova Scotia Health Authority Inpatient Service Profile**

The purpose of this Profile is to provide Nurses with an overview of each service area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Information</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service</strong></td>
<td>7.3 Neurosurgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Site</strong></td>
<td>Halifax Infirmary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brief description of the Unit</strong></td>
<td>The Neurosurgery Unit is an acute patient care service that provides neurosurgical services and accepts patients from throughout Nova Scotia as well as from the other Atlantic provinces if required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit Orientation</strong></td>
<td>Orientation is individualized depending on the learning needs of the new staff but in general, a new staff attends one day of patient and procedure specific orientation with our Nurse Educator and then 12 twelve hour shifts with a preceptor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Beds</strong></td>
<td>30 (including 4 IMCU and 2 seizure telemetry)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Patient Care

**Patient Population**
Brain and spinal cord tumors, open and closed traumatic brain injuries, traumatic spinal cord injuries, para and quadriplegia, cerebral aneurysms, neck and back surgeries (discs and fusions), seizure disorders, pituitary tumors, Parkinson’s.

**Average Patient Age Range**
Adults, 16 and up

**Nursing Model of Care**
- Primary Nursing: ____
- Team Nursing: ____
- Other: _____
- Total Patient Care: _____
- Modified Total Patient Care: _____

**Other:**

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### Systems

**Medication System**
- Traditional: _____
- Unit Dosage: _____
- Other: _____

**Other:**

**Scheduling**
- Manager: _____
- Self: _____

**Average Number of Staff per Shift**
- Days: RN 6 LPN 3 CTA
- Evenings: RN LPN CTA
- Nights: RN 6 LPN 1 CTA

**Service Hours**
24/7

**Length of Shift**
- 8hr: _____
- 12 hr: _____
- Other: _____

**Other:**

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### Staff

**Staff Mix**
- RN: 75%
- LPN: 25%
- CTA: __

**Physician Coverage**
- On Call: _____
- On Site: _____
- N/A: _____
- Other: _____

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multidisciplinary Team Members</th>
<th>Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietary, Social Work, Recreation Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, Spiritual Care, Nurse Practitioner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Required Skills, Qualifications & Experience**

**RN**

Registered Nurses provide professional nursing services, deliver health education programs and provide consultative nursing services to promote, maintain and restore patient health.

- **Responsibilities**
  
The RN is responsible for the coordination of care for a group of patients, including all bedside care. At times, the RN is paired with an LPN and the RN assigns patients to the LPN accordingly and they work together collaboratively.

- **Skills Required**
  
  Acute neuro assessment, tracheostomy care, enteral feeding, bowel and bladder care, care of the unconscious patient, lumbar and ventricle drains (IMCU), suture removal, venipuncture and IV initiation, central venous access devices, IV direct medication, cardiac monitoring (IMCU)

- **Additional Responsibilities**
  
The neurosurgical patient population can be very physically heavy care at times. Some patients have behavioral issues which require NVCI training of staff annually.

- **Additional License/Certification/Education required**
  
  For RNs to work in the IMCU, a 5 day IMCU course provided by in-house educators and a 4 twelve hour shift orientation with a preceptor is required.

**Completed by:** Fran Kelloway  **Date:** July 8, 2015