

## Clinical Departments: Postanesthesia Care Unit (PACU)

Name of Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Always/  
Yes

Sometimes

Never/  
No

N/A

### DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT

1. The PACU is located within or adjacent to the main operating room (OR) area.

2. Please list other areas where the patients are recovered:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Two registered nurses, one of whom is competent in Phase I postanesthesia nursing, are always present in the Phase I PACU whenever a patient is recovering from anesthesia.

(See American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses [ASpan] "A Position Statement on Minimum Staffing" at [http://www.aspan.org/Portals/6/docs/ClinicalPractice/PositionStatement/1012/Pos\\_Stmt\\_2\\_Min\\_Staffing.pdf](http://www.aspan.org/Portals/6/docs/ClinicalPractice/PositionStatement/1012/Pos_Stmt_2_Min_Staffing.pdf).)

### HUMAN RESOURCES

4. All PACU personnel have current training in:

a. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

b. Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS)

c. Pediatric advanced life support (PALS)

5. Nursing competencies, as appropriate to the patient population, include (but are not limited to):

a. Ventilator management

b. Hemodynamic monitoring

c. Medication administration

6. A defibrillator and crash cart are available and in an appropriate location in the PACU.

### MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

7. Emergency drugs and supplies are immediately available and age appropriate.

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### PATIENT CARE

- |                          |                          |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Anesthesia personnel are immediately available to assist the PACU nurse during the patient's recovery period.<br><br>If not, what is their availability:<br><br>_____              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. There are specific guidelines for managing intubated patients and for extubating patients.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. The anesthesiologist/CRNA is available in the surgical area while the patient is still intubated.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. There are protocols in place for the management of patients with known or suspected sleep apnea, such as the use of apnea monitors or continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. There is a face-to-face communication protocol in use (such as SBAR) that guides the systematic approach to the handoff and transfer of patient care:                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. From the OR anesthesia provider to the PACU RN, and  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. From the PACU RN to the next level of care.  |

### DOCUMENTATION

- |                          |                          |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. The patient's status upon arrival to the PACU is documented.                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Assessment, at a minimum, includes a review of:   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. Level of consciousness   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Oxygenation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. Ventilation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Estimated blood loss (EBL)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. Incisions/dressings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | f. Circulation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | g. Pain   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. Vital signs are documented at regular intervals, in accordance with policy and procedure. |

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16. The record reflects any notification of the attending surgeon or anesthesiologist, e.g., who was notified, the exact time, and the content of the conversation.

### DISCHARGE

17. When patients are discharged from PACU:

a. The anesthesiologist assesses the patient and signs the PACU discharge form, or

b. Patient discharge criteria, which have been approved by the medical staff, are utilized. (Example of order: "Discharge patient when criteria are met.")

18. Patient status at discharge is documented, including current vital signs.

19. For inpatients, a registered nurse transports the patient to the patient care area.

a. If a registered nurse does not transport the patient, there are specific guidelines for when an RN is required.

20. For outpatients, the patient is discharged with a responsible adult.

21. A postanesthesia evaluation is completed and documented by an anesthesia practitioner no later than 48 hours after the surgery or procedure. (42 CFR §482.52[b][3])

22. The postanesthesia evaluation includes documentation of:

a. Respiratory function

b. Cardiovascular function

c. Mental status

d. Temperature

e. Pain

f. Nausea and vomiting

g. Postoperative hydration

(42 CFR §482.52[b][3])

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- |                          |                          |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 23. Follow-up phone calls are made to outpatients within a specified time frame after surgery regardless of when surgery was performed. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. There is a mechanism in place to handle unusual complaints or medical problems.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. These calls are documented in the patient's chart.   |

### ENVIRONMENT OF CARE

- |                          |                          |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 24. A defibrillator and crash cart are available and in an appropriate location in the PACU.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25. There are written protocols for the use of patient monitoring equipment.<br><br>(See American Society of Anesthesiologists [ASA] "Practice Guidelines for Postanesthetic Care [2002]" at <a href="http://www.asahq.org/For-Members/Practice-Management/Practice-Parameters.aspx">http://www.asahq.org/For-Members/Practice-Management/Practice-Parameters.aspx</a> and ASA "Standards for Postanesthesia Care [2009]" at <a href="http://www.asahq.org/For-Healthcare-Professionals/Standards-Guidelines-and-Statements.aspx">http://www.asahq.org/For-Healthcare-Professionals/Standards-Guidelines-and-Statements.aspx</a> .) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 26. There are an appropriate number of cardiac monitors available.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 27. Alarms are activated at all times when monitoring equipment is in use.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28. Pulse oximetry is available and used on all patients.   |

### PROCESS IMPROVEMENT/PATIENT SAFETY

- |                          |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 29. Adverse events and near misses are reported according to policy.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. The department provides constructive and timely feedback on each reported adverse event and near miss.                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Staff members are able to describe how information on adverse events and near misses is used to improve patient safety. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 30. The department has a patient safety plan with specific goals and objectives.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 31. The department collects data needed to track progress toward the department patient safety goals.                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. Staff members are able to describe how they use data to determine which safety projects to adopt.                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Staff members are able to describe how they use data to improve patient care.   |

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*This interactive guide is not a standard of care. Any guidelines suggested here are not rules, do not constitute legal advice, and do not ensure a successful outcome. The ultimate decision regarding the appropriateness of any action or treatment must be made by each health care practitioner in light of all circumstances prevailing in the individual situation and in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction in which the care is rendered.*