

## **Surgical Intensive Care and Step-Down Unit Nursing at Mayo Clinic in Florida**

This 27-bed unit primarily serves the surgical patient population, with a focus on open heart surgery; heart, lung and liver transplants; neurologically compromised patients; neurosurgery; and surgical care.

All patient rooms are private and divided into three zones: patient, family and caregiver. There is a computer in each room for the caregiver's use. Alcoves for charting are located between every two consecutive patient rooms.

Rooms have a large flat-screen television with media on demand, including extensive patient education materials and entertainment opportunities. Every room has a wide window to view the Florida sunshine and an enclosed bathroom with a shower.

### **Details**

- Shared decision-making model with Departmental Nursing Council and unit-based representation. Other departmental committees include Nursing Practice, Quality and Education.
- Assignments are made using an acuity-based system. Typical assignments are one to two patients per RN during the day and at night, or two RNs to one patient depending on acuity.
- Staff includes a team of **RNs, patient care technicians** and **unit secretary/monitor technician**.
- A **shift team leader** is responsible for staffing shift to shift, managing patient flow and beds, rounding with physicians, and being a resource to nursing staff.
- A dedicated **unit-based educator** focuses on staff's clinical educational needs.
- A **case manager** focuses on patients' discharge planning, making referrals and coordinating transfers to other facilities.
- A unit-based **pharmacist** reviews every patient's medication administration record and coordinates orders with the central pharmacy.
- All beds have continuous cardiac monitoring, intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP), ventricular assist device (VAD), external ventricular drainage system (EVDS), continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) and vents.
- Typical patients include:
  - Medically unstable postsurgical patients
  - Post-neurosurgery patients
  - Post-transplant (heart, lung or liver) patients

### **Shift options**

- 12-hour day or night shifts with every third weekend
- Self-scheduling

- Flexible alternative shift options
- Full time, part time, supplemental or PRN

**Requirements**

- Florida R.N. license required upon date of hire
- Critical care nursing experience preferred
- Hospital nursing experience preferred
- ACLS and BLS required