

General Surgery – Orthopedics Nursing at Mayo Clinic in Florida

This 28-bed unit serves a surgical patient population with a focus on postoperative care for general surgery and, as appropriate, overflow from other areas. The acuity on the unit may be comparable to a progressive care unit.

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. Committees on this unit include:
 - Quality Subcommittees
 - Education Committee
 - Clinical Practice Committee
 - Patient Satisfaction Committee
 - Leadership Council
 - Representation on many housewide committees and task forces
- Assignments are made using an acuity-based system. Typical assignments are four to five patients per RN during the day, with four to six patients per RN at night.
- Staff includes a team of **RNs, patient care technicians, unit secretary/monitor technician** and a **unit administrative assistant**.
- 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, referrals and coordination of transfers to other facilities.
- A unit-based **pharmacist** reviews every patient's medication administration record and coordinates orders with the central pharmacy.
- The unit has the capability to monitor 20/28 patients and the ability to administer select cardiac drips, such as diltiazem, amiodarone, nitroglycerin, Reopro, Integrilin and others as appropriate.
- Currently seeking to be a Bariatric Center of Excellence.
- Common types of surgeries seen on the unit include:

- Abdominal surgery
 - Bariatric surgery
 - Gynecologic surgery
 - Otorhinolaryngology
 - Plastic surgery
 - Urologic surgery
 - Vascular surgery
- Certain surgeries that are extremely complex and come to the service area straight from the operating room can include:
 - Abdominoperineal resections
 - Total or near-total laryngectomies with permanent tracheostomy
 - Urinary diversions
 - Whipple procedures

Shift options

- Primarily 12-hour day or night shifts (limited 8-hour shifts available) and every third weekend
- Scheduling Committee's goal is to use a self-scheduling model by 2009
- Full time, part time, supplemental or PRN

Requirements

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