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Administration	

Registered Nurse – Post Anesthesia Care Unit – Job Description

Location: City Centre Surgery

Department: Post-Anesthetic Care Unit

Reports To: Clinic Nurse Manager / PACU Lead

Employment Type: Full-Time / Part-Time / Casual

Position Summary

The PACU Registered Nurse is responsible for providing safe, competent, and patient-centred post-anesthetic care to patients recovering from general, regional, and local anesthesia in both Phase I and Phase II recovery. The role requires strong assessment skills, sound clinical judgment, and the ability to respond effectively to post-anesthetic complications in an outpatient surgical setting. The PACU RN promotes a culture grounded in City Centre Surgery's core values of **P**atient-centered care, **E**xcellence, **A**ccountability, **R**espect and **L**eading-edge practice while in adherence to NAPANc, BCCNM, and CPSBC NHMSFAP standards.

1. Key Responsibilities

A. Post-Operative Patient Care

- Plans, implements, directs, and evaluates direct and indirect nursing care for the post anesthetic patient
- Performs admission, PACU recovery, discharge, and patient/family teaching duties as required, in accordance with established criteria and facility policies
- Performs comprehensive assessments including airway, breathing, circulation, level of consciousness, pain, nausea/vomiting, and surgical site evaluation
- Manages oxygen therapy, hemodynamics, pain control, nausea management, IV therapy, drains, dressings, and fluid balance
- Safely progress patients through Phase I and Phase II recovery using established discharge criteria
- Provides patient and family education and reviews post-operative instructions prior to discharge



- Discharge patients into the care of a responsible adult and assist with safe transfer to vehicle using a wheelchair
- Completes post-operative follow-up calls and coordinates appropriate follow-up actions as required
- Maintains narcotic counts and medication safety practices in accordance with facility policy
- Documents all assessments, interventions, patient responses, education, and communications accurately in the EMR

B. Emergency Response

- Ability to respond quickly and effectively in urgent or emergent situations
- Recognizes early signs of clinical deterioration and responds appropriately
- Notifies anesthesiologist and/or responsible physician promptly of any change in patient condition
- Initiates emergency intervention including CPR when indicated
- Ensures readiness of emergency and resuscitation equipment and supplies are readily available and functional
- When patient status in PACU permits, brings crash cart to the OR when needed and assists with emergency protocols

C. Equipment & Safety

- Ensures PACU monitoring, suction, oxygen, warming devices, and airway management equipment are properly functioning and available
- Performs monthly crash cart checks alternating with OR as assigned by PACU lead
- Reports equipment malfunction and removes unsafe equipment from use per facility protocol
- Maintains a clean, safe environment through adherence to IPAC standards, aseptic technique, and safety protocols.
- Assists with control of traffic and personnel flow to minimize infection risk.
- Ensures completion of daily PACU safety and readiness checklists in accordance with facility policy.

D. Collaboration & Professionalism

- Communicates respectfully and works collaboratively with anesthesiologists, surgeons, perioperative staff and support teams
- Supports orientation of new personnel when assigned
- Maintains professional conduct, confidentiality and adheres to facility dress code
- Demonstrates accountability for own practice and ongoing professional development
- Performs all duties in a manner guided by City Centre Surgery's mission, vision and values
- Supports NHMSFAP PACU staffing requirements, including minimum two RN coverage while patients are receiving post anesthetic care, and adherence to phase appropriate competency requirements

- Maintains required nurse to patient ratios and ensure patients remain within direct line of sight, in accordance with facility policy and NHMSFAP standards

E. Physical & Environmental Requirements

- Ability to stand and walk for sustained periods, may be required to work occasional extended shifts based on operational requirements
- Ability to safely assist with patient handling and transfers
- Works in an environment involving potential exposure to bodily fluids and infection control agents
- Demonstrates the ability to respond quickly and effectively in urgent and emergent situations

2. Qualifications

- Current practicing registration with BCCNM
- Completion of a Post-Anesthesia Care or Critical Care Nursing program, or has equivalent in experience or education
- Minimum 2 years PACU or critical care experience
- BLS and ACLS certifications (required)
- Current Immunizations as per Occupational Health requirements
- Completion of annual education in WHMIS, Hand Hygiene, IPAC, and Fire Safety
- Annual performance review and PACU competency self-assessment maintained on file

3. Compensation & Benefits

- Competitive compensation based on experience and qualifications
- Benefits package available for eligible positions

4. How to Apply

Please submit your resume and cover letter to:

hiring@citycentresurgery.ca

Subject Line: PACU RN – Your Name