

POST ANESTHESIA CARE UNIT

PATIENT SAFETY

02/2014

Patient Care Policy

POLICY:

Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) personnel take appropriate steps to assure the safety of patients and maximize patient safety in event of early warning and emergency conditions of patients, following Saint Francis Memorial Hospital Policies & Procedures including: Environment of Care, Infection, Prevention and Control Manual, and HIPAA Privacy Manual.

PURPOSE:

To assure a safe environment for all patients, and the proper handling of patient care in the emergency condition.

PROCESS:

1. Maintain Privacy to ensure patient confidentiality.
2. The patient will never be left unattended.
3. Side rails will be up on the gurney at all times except during performance of procedures if so indicated.
4. The brake lever of the gurney will be locked completely in order to immobilize the gurney.
5. All infants and children under five years of age will be brought to Surgery and Post Anesthesia Care Unit in their crib and not on a gurney, unless otherwise indicated.
6. Identification - The nurse will check the wrist identification on admission of the patient to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit. Double check identification when administering medication and blood.
6. Resuscitation bag and masks are readily available at the patient's bedside. The Come and Go Unit Treatment Center/Gastrointestinal Services Unit, and PACU are set with emergency buttons so that the personnel from those units will respond to any emergency situation when emergency button is activated.
7. PACU personnel follow hospital policy and procedures to call for rapid response team (RRT) and activate the stroke or chest pain alert for the further assessment of early warning condition of the patient.
8. Emergency supplies, Broselow cart, and Code Blue cart are kept in the PACU to assure rapid availability as needed. The Code Blue cart check will be documented on the Code Blue Check Sheet by the nursing staff daily when the unit is in service.
9. PACU RNs follow SFMH Policy "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/Code Blue" to care for the patient needing cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Saint Francis Memorial Hospital Patient Care Policy

Post Anesthesia Care Unit

PATIENT SAFETY

Page 2

- A. Activate emergency button by pushing the blue “code” button at the head of each bedside.
 - B. Initiate BLS
 - C. Have “Code Blue” activated through Telephone Operator, dial “2222”.
 - D. Proceed with Saint Francis Memorial Hospital Code Blue policy and procedure
10. Throughout the Surgical Services Units (Operating Room, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, Come and Go Unit and Treatment Center/Gastrointestinal Services) there is a stenophone, overhead paging system that can be activated by pressing “890” to summon personnel to respond to any emergency situation to contact the telephone operator by stenophone - press “238”.
11. Universal precautions are practiced by all staff on all patients and equipment used. Refer to Saint Francis Memorial Infection, Prevention and Control Manual.
12. Patient equipment breakdown: the equipment will be removed from service, marked, Biomedical engineers and Engineering Department notified, and a work order will be attached to the equipment. (Refer to Environment of Care Manual)
13. All hospital medication administration policies are followed.
14. All hospital policies and standards related to the National Patient Safety Goals are followed.

Bibliography:

American Society of Perianesthesia Nurses. (2012). *2012-2014 Perianesthesia Nursing, Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements*. Cherry Hill, New Jersey: American Society of Perianesthesia Nurses.

SFMH Policies and Procedures Manual

Sponsoring Department or Committee	Approval Date
Department of Surgery Operations	02/13/14
Other Approvals	Approval Date
Director of Perioperative Services	02/14/14
MEC	09/2010
Board of Trustees	10/2010
Past Approval	Approval Date
Surgical Management Committee	Reviewed: 09/1981, 12/1986, 12/1989, 01/1993, 12/1995 Revised: 09/1979, 02/1996, 01/1999, 05/1999, 07/1999, 5/2008, 08/2010