

Alliance for Smiles

PACU Nurses Responsibilities

The Head Nurse on the mission will designate one PACU nurse to function as Lead Nurse, preferably before the start of the mission.

Lead PACU Nurse duties:

- Assigns or performs set-up, take-down and packing of equipment and supplies for PACU.
- Discusses with the Chief Anesthesiologist which pain medications are available locally and/or anesthesiologist's preferences.
- Discusses with each surgeon his/her preferences for NPO status post-cleft palate surgery, as well as any other specific preferences.
- Requests of the Circulating Nurse in each room that every patient be transferred with the suction tubing and catheter used during the case, to minimize use of scarce supplies.
- Requests that any clean drape be brought with each patient, to protect the PACU gurney mattresses.
- Assigns lunch times and breaks.
- Performs any other tasks as requested by the Head Nurse.

PACU Nurse duties:

- Works collaboratively to ensure a safe and pleasant care environment.
- Ensures that adequate supplies, IV fluids and medications are available at the start of each work day.
- Checks all electrical equipment prior to the start of each work day. Notifies the Quartermaster of any malfunctioning equipment.
- Checks oxygen delivery system prior to the start of each work day. Where tank oxygen is used, obtains a replacement if there is not enough left in the tank for the day.
- Signs out all Controlled Medications on the Controlled Medication Record and documents the dose on the patient's chart.
- As closely as possible cares for patients using the Standards of the American Society of Peri-Anesthesia Nurses.
- Ensures that two nurses or one nurse and a Pediatrician are present in PACU whenever a patient is present in PACU.
- Notifies the appropriate person of any problems that develop in PACU during the work day.
- Performs local nurse/family teaching, if requested by the Head Nurse.
- Performs any other tasks as requested by the Head Nurse or Lead PACU Nurse.

On-Call PACU Nurse duties:

- Carries the on-call cell phone at all times and passes it to the next on-call nurse at the start of each work day.
- Ensures that the on-call phone is fully charged.
- Cares for the last patient of the day along with one other PACU nurse or the on-call Circulating Nurse.