

Cardiothoracic Surgery & Interventional Telemetry Unit

Patient Population Profile:

- Pre and post cardiothoracic surgery
- myocardial or suspected myocardial infarction
- critical dysrhythmias
- angina
- post interventional catheterizations with/without groin lines
- unstable patients with tachy/brady dysrhythmias
- CHF requiring IV therapy, electrolyte imbalances
- anti-arrhythmic or cardio-active drug overdose or toxicity

Of Beds: 51 beds

Equipment Used:

- IVAC pumps
- Arterial lines
- Hewlett Packard Monitors
- Internal/External pacemakers
- Epicardial pacing
- Groin Lines
- FemStop
- Chest Tubes

Diagnostic and Treatment Modalities:

- PTCA – Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty
- Transesophageal echocardiography
- Transthoracic echocardiography
- Nuclear Cardiology Studies
- EPS Studies
- Stents
- Cardioseals
- Cardioversion

Acuity Variables:

Acuity variables are the number of open-heart surgery patients and the number of interventional patients.

Medications Rendered: Multiple cardiac drugs by mouth and intravenously.

Support/Structure of the Unit:

Director, Charge Nurse, Cardiology Service Coordinator, Patient Care Coordinators, RNs, NAs, ICUAs, Nurse Practitioners and Administrative Assistants support the unit. Training includes an individualized orientation by unit staff and 8-12 week mentorship.

Shift(s): All Full-Time RNs on this unit work 12 shifts (7 p.m. - 7 a.m., 7 a.m.- 7 p.m.), Every third weekend is standard.

Rotation Schedule:

Can be as much as 50/50 (but is usually no more than three 12-hour shifts in a six-week schedule) and schedules are published in six-week blocks and are self scheduled.

Qualifications/Experience Necessary:

- Willingness to continue education
- Commitment to patient satisfaction and working as a team
- Willingness commit to one-year on the unit