

Coronary Care Unit

Overview of the unit – basic description:

The Critical Coronary Care Unit consists of 14 beds designed and staffed to provide constant assessment and intervention to the critically ill cardiac patient.

Patient Population Profile: The CCU serves Adult and Geriatric patient populations. Appropriate patients include patients with an acute myocardial infarction, patients who are strongly suspected of having an acute myocardial infarction, patients with unstable angina who are receiving intravenous nitroglycerine and who are hemodynamically unstable, patients who are unstable post cardiac catheterization, patients who require intra-aortic balloon pumping, patients who are experiencing life-threatening dysrhythmias, patients with pulmonary edema who are hemodynamically unstable, patients who have been resuscitated following a cardiac arrest, patients with heart failure requiring hemodynamic monitoring or intensive nursing observation or care, patients being evaluated for heart failure or transplant who require hemodynamic monitoring or mechanical devices such as mechanical ventilation, intra-aortic balloon pump, or left ventricular assist device, cardiac transplant patients who require intensive observation, hemodynamic monitoring or mechanical devices, and general cardiology overflow patients are seen in this unit. Critically ill patients appropriate for other critical care units, but for whom special circumstances exist, necessitating their placement in the CCU are also admitted here.

Equipment Used:

- Intra Aortic Balloon Pumps
- CVVH
- Ventilators
- Swan Catheters
- Temporary Pacemakers
- LVAD

Medications Rendered: , Dobutamine, Dopamine, Lidocaine, Milrinone, Nitroglycerine, Cyclosporine, Aggrastat, ReoPro, Norepinephrine, Epinephrine, Levophed

Support/Structure of the Unit:

A Director, an Operations Coordinator, Nursing Assistants, and Administrative Assistants support the unit. There is a permanent Case Manager assigned to the unit.

Shift(s):

Most RNs on this unit work 12 shifts (7 p.m. - 7 a.m., 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.), other flexible shifts available depending on unit needs. Every third weekend is standard.

Rotation Schedule:

Can be as much as 50/50 and schedules are published in six-blocks and are self scheduled.

Qualifications/Experience Necessary:

All RNs are required to complete a critical care course and a balloon pump course with demonstrated competency within no later than one year of employment. All RNs are Advanced Cardiac Life Support certified within one year of employment

All RNs are required to successfully complete initial unit based competencies upon their arrival as a new staff member. They will also be expected to complete annual unit based competencies. The Director, Patient Care Coordinator and the Clinical Nurse Educator make recommendations for continuing education when appropriate, based on performance demonstrated while on the job.