

Heart Failure Telemetry

Overview of the unit – basic description:

The Heart Failure/Transplant Telemetry Unit is a 24 bed unit designed and staffed to provide care for, but not limited to, patients in all stages of heart failure and patients pre- and post-transplant. Patients may require Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) support.

Patient Population Profile:

The Heart Failure/Transplant Telemetry Unit serves stable Adult and Geriatric Heart Failure/Transplant and medical cardiology patient populations. Stable Heart Failure/Transplant and medical cardiology patient populations who do not require critical monitoring and stable post cardiac catheterization, PTCA and EPS study patients are typically admitted to this unit.

Equipment Used:

- Temporary pacemakers
- Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD)
- Arterial lines
- Pulse oximetry

Medications Rendered:

Cardizem, Dobutamine, Dopamine, Heparin, Lidocaine, Milrinone, Nitroglycerin, , Cyclosporine, Aggrastat, ReoPro, Natrecore.

Support/Structure of the Unit:

A Director, an Operations Coordinator, Nursing Assistants, and Administrative Assistants support the unit. There is a permanent Social Worker assigned to the HF patients.

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.

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 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.