

Psychiatric Medical Care Unit

Overview of the unit – basic description:

The PMCU provides careful and thorough evaluations that fully address both medical and psychiatric disorders. Along with the unit's psychiatric team, the Internal Medicine Consult service evaluates and treats all patients that require such services, and additional consultation with a wide variety of specialists is available within the Hospital.

Patient Population Profile:

Adult patients with a wide range of major psychiatric disorders and co-morbid medical diagnoses and adolescents (14 years and older) whenever their medical problems prevent them from a general psychiatric admission. Patients are admitted voluntarily or involuntarily through a detailed intake process.

of Beds: 20 beds

Diagnostic & Treatment Modalities:

- Psychopharmacology
- Individual, family, and group psychotherapies
- Milieu therapy
- Adjunctive and creative arts therapies
- Psychoeducational programs and groups
- Special groups for individuals with secondary diagnoses of alcohol or substance abuse or dependency
- Cognitive and behavioral therapies
- A variety of case management services

Acuity Variables:

- Suicidal or self-mutilating patients
- Aggressive patients
- Restrained patients
- Medically unstable patients

Medications Rendered:

- A variety of psychotropic medications including anti-psychotics, mood stabilizers and anti-depressants
- IV, IM, Oral agents for medical conditions

Support/Structure of the Unit: Director, 2 patient care coordinators. Team approach with multidisciplinary staff.

Key Responsibilities:

Primary nurse who cares for a variety of psychiatrically and medically ill patients. Psychiatric diagnosis is always primary and acute. Medical condition can vary from acute to stable. Adolescent (14 years and above) patient population included in mix.

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 is based upon agreement at the time of hire. Schedules are published in advance, in six-week blocks.

Qualifications/Experience Necessary:

- At least 2 years of psychiatric nursing experience in an acute care setting
- 1-2 years experience in a medical setting
- Will consider one of the two above.