

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001

Nursing Policy

23 July 2005

- 1. UNIT TITLE:** Acute Care Ward 68, Inpatient General, Vascular, Otolaryngology and Maxillofacial Surgery.
- 2. DESCRIPTION:** A 22-bed inpatient-nursing unit with an average daily census of 20.
- 3. PATIENT POPULATION SERVED:** Nursing care is provided an adult and geriatric patient population eligible for care as designated by the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) and the Patient Administration Department.
- 4. CONDITIONS AND DIAGNOSES TREATED:** Pre and postoperative care of general surgery, vascular and head and neck patients.
 - a. High Volume:
 - 1) Thyroidectomy
 - 2) Appendectomy
 - 3) Major Small and Large Bowel Procedures
 - 4) Peripheral vascular surgery
 - 5) Endocrine
 - b. High Risk:
 - 1) Radical neck dissection
 - 2) Total laryngectomies/ pharyngectomies
 - 3) Open AAA repairs
 - 4) Geriatric surgical population
 - 5) Multiple surgical comorbidities
 - 6) Pulmonary embolism
 - 7) Femoral-popliteal bypasses
 - 8) Tracheostomies
 - c. Problem Prone:
 - 1) Radical neck dissection
 - 2) Resectional gastric bypass
 - 3) Tracheostomies

d. High Cost:

- 1) Long term patients
- 2) AAA
- 3) Radical neck dissection
- 4) Post Whipple patients
- 5) Total Parenteral Nutrition
- 6) Peripheral bypass surgery

e. Excluded Patients/Services:

- 1) Patients and personnel not listed in paragraph 2.
- 2) Cardiac or continuous monitoring

5. STANDARDS OR GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE:

- a. AR 570-4, Manpower Management, 15 May 2000.
- b. FM 8-501, The Workload Management System for Nursing, Nov 1990.
- c. WRAMC Regulations
- d. WRAMC Nursing Polices
- e. Unit level standard operating procedures
- f. American Nurses Association, Scope and Standards of Practice, 2004.
- g. Springhouse, Nursing Procedures, Lippincott, 2004. To accompany software program: Procedures, Version 2.2, Lippincott, 2004

6. TREATMENTS AND ACTIVITIES PERFORMED: All nursing activities are performed in accordance with the Scope of Practice and Competency Based Orientation. Common clinical activities include: admission assessments, patient and family teaching, venipunctures, peripheral intravenous therapy, TPN administration, fingerstick blood glucose monitoring, blood transfusions, medication administration, urinary catheterization, nasogastric tube insertion, tube feedings, oral, nasogastric, and tracheal suctioning, dressing and wound care, respiratory treatments, oxygen therapy, cardiac monitoring, chest tubes, tracheotomy care, vital signs monitoring, pain management, PCA pumps, and ongoing assessments and documentation of nursing and medical intervention.

7. PERSONNEL PROVIDING CARE:

a. Nursing:

- 1) Registered nurses
- 2) Licensed practical nurses
- 3) Nursing Assistants
- 4) Medical Records Technicians

b. Other Personnel:

- 1) Physicians
- 2) Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- 3) Physician Assistants
- 4) Physical Therapists
- 5) Occupational Therapist
- 6) Social Workers
- 7) Discharge Planning
- 8) Pharmacists
- 9) Dietitians
- 10) Respiratory Therapy
- 11) Speech Therapy
- 12) Radiology Technicians
- 13) Laboratory Technicians
- 14) Chaplain

c. Unit core staffing plan

Wd 68	ASAM Authorizations TDA 0202		Weekday Staffing Matrix (excluding Head Nurse and Wardmaster)			Weekend Staffing Matrix (excluding Head Nurse and Wardmaster)		
	Military	Civilian	Day	Evening	Night	Day	Evening	Night
RN	12	6	5	3	3	4	3	3
LPN	8	3	2	3	2	2	3	2
NA	7	5	3	2	1	3	2	1
MRT		3	1	1		1		

8. HOURS OF SERVICE: 24 hours a day