



## Nursing Service Guidelines Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)

**Title:** **ASSISTING THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST WITH REGIONAL BLOCKS PREOPERATIVELY/POSTOPERATIVELY**

**Responsibility:** PACU Registered Nurse (RN)

**Purpose of Guidelines:** The RN will assist the anesthesiologist or designee with regional blocks pre and post operatively after successfully completing the regional block competency.

**Procedure:**

1. Prior to assisting the anesthesiologist, the RN must complete orientation and competency check-off for regional blocks.
2. The RN will either be present while the drug is being drawn up, or the syringe will be labeled with its contents identified by the anesthesiologist.
3. The RN will only be responsible for injecting the medication under the direction of the anesthesiologist or designee. The RN may also be asked to aspirate at the discretion of the physician.
4. The anesthesiologist or designee is responsible for conducting the Universal Protocol time-out before starting the procedure and is also responsible for monitoring the patient during the procedure.
5. In the event of an emergency, the RN will follow hospital protocol assuring the safety of the patient.

**Reviewed by:**  
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