

## NURSING SERVICE GUIDELINES POST-ANESTHESIA CARE UNIT (PACU)

**Guideline:** Emergency conditions

**Policy Number Superseded:**

**Responsibility:** Registered Nurse (RN)

**Purpose of Guidelines:** To establish a protocol for the management of emergency conditions.



**Effective Date:**

June 2025

**Initial Effective Date:**

June 14, 2010

**Procedure:**

- (1) Airway obstruction.
  - (a) Reposition the head.
  - (b) Apply jaw thrusts and/or chin lift.
  - (c) Suction as needed.
  - (d) Notify anesthesiologist.
- (2) Cardiac/respiratory deterioration or arrest.
  - (a) Press red stat button for the anesthesiologist.
    - (i) In PACU – stat button is on the south wall.
    - (ii) In POH – stat button is to the left of the west double doors.
  - (b) Code cart and defibrillator to bedside.
  - (c) Initiate CPR.
  - (d) Assist with code.
- (3) Malignant hHyperthermia.
  - (a) Press red stat button for anesthesiologist.
  - (b) Obtain the malignant hyperthermia cart.
    - (i) Main OR - in the hallway between OR rooms #5 & #6.
    - (ii) George Isaac - in the hallway across from OR room #3.
  - (c) Institute Malignant Hyperthermia Protocol located on top of MH cart

Guideline:  
Emergency conditions

2

Approved by:

*Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC  
Chief Nursing Officer*

Initial effective date:  
July 2005

*Review/Revision Completed by:*

*Michelle Mallett, MSN, RN, CNOR, Director of  
Surgical Services*

Review/Revision Date:

April 2008  
August 31, 2010  
May 2014  
June 2014  
August 2017  
July 2020  
June 2023

Next review date:  
June 2026