

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

Guideline: Emergency conditions



Policy Number Superseded:

Responsibility: Registered Nurse (RN)

Effective Date:

June 2025

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

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 – state 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 hyperthermia.

- (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

Approved by:

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Chief Nursing Officer*

Initial effective date:
July 2005

Review/Revision Completed by:

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Surgical Services*

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April 2008
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