

Name of Policy: On-Call Coverage of the PACU

Policy Number: 3364-125-01

Approving Officer: Chief Nursing Officer

Responsible Agent: Chief Nursing Officer

Scope: POH/PACU



Effective date: June 1, 2023

Original effective date:

September 2, 1980

Key words:

	New policy proposal	X	Minor/technical revision of existing policy
	Major revision of existing policy		Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy statement

The POH and PACU will provide on-call staff for the care of patients who require admittance to the POH/PACU beyond regular working hours.

(B) Purpose of policy

To acquaint surgical services staff and house supervisors with the routine for requesting after-hour coverage of the POH/PACU.

(C) Procedure

- (1) Presently, POH/PACU staff are available on call to pre-op and recover surgical patients Friday 11pm-7am, Saturday 7pm-11:59pm and Sunday 12am-11pm.
- (2) The on-call POH/PACU RN's may be called to complete pre-operative assessments on all surgery patients with the exception of Class X and 1A cases.
- (3) Pre-op call staff will be given one hour for arrival time when being called in.
- (4) If surgery is estimated at 2 hours or more, staff may have the option to stay or leave with the understanding that they will be called back in for the patient's post-op care and/or other pre-op assessments. This decision will be made at the discretion of the anesthesiologist on duty. The nurse will be given one hour for arrival time when being called back in.

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- (5) The decision to bring in on-call staff lies solely with the attending anesthesiologist. Once the decision has been made, the hospital operator should be notified to call staff in. The on-call POH/PACU RN's will be called in one hour prior to expected arrival time.
- (6) For kidney transplant work-up patients only, POH/PACU will be notified by the house supervisor of the need to report to work.
- (7) The on-call POH/PACU care team will consist of 2 RN's. The ideal is that two POH/PACU nurses will be present in the PACU whenever a patient is recovering. In the event one PACU nurse is not available, the position is that two licensed nurses, one of whom is a registered nurse competent in PACU nursing, be present during recovery.
- (8) When a patient is to enter the PACU beyond the hours of routine staffing, the anesthesiologist will notify the OR circulating RN to request that the hospital operator contact the on-call POH/ PACU staff. The call should be made one hour prior to the estimated time of patient arrival to the unit. After recovering the patient and prior to leaving, the POH/PACU nurses must check with the attending anesthesiologist to see if there are other surgical cases pending.
- (9) If the on-call staff is not notified in sufficient time for them to be present in the PACU when the patient is ready for admission, it is the anesthesiologist's responsibility to attend to the patient until the PACU on-call team arrives.
- (10) Benefits and compensation for POH/PACU call will be those described in the UTMC personnel policy manual.
- (11) If the responsible on-call nurse cannot be contacted, the house supervisor will take appropriate action and notify the nurse manager for the unit.
- (12) Failure to respond or report for on-call responsibilities will be considered a no call /no show occurrence, which is subject to progressive discipline up to and including termination.

<p>Approved by:</p> <p><u>/s/</u></p> <p>Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC Chief Nursing Officer</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p> <p><i>Review/Revision Completed by:</i> <i>Revision completed by: Michelle Mallett, MSN, RN, CNOR, Director of Surgical Services</i></p>	<p>Policies Superseded by this Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1-R-1 <p>Initial effective date: June 1, 2023</p> <p>Review/Revision Date:</p> <p>1982 January 1983 1984 1985 March 1987 1986 1988 1989 September 1990 March 1993 September 1996 March 1999 March 2002 April 2004 April 2005 July 2005 May 20, 2008 March 20, 2009 August 27, 2012 June 4, 2014 May 1, 2017 July 1, 2020 June 1, 2023</p> <p>Next review date: June 1, 2026</p>
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