



Fact Sheet for: TELEMETRY

Current as of 2/08

Focus of unit: Are you an “adrenaline junky”? Ready for a fast-paced, intense nursing experience? Become involved in cardiac progressive care nursing including use of antiarrhythmics and vasopressors. Perform chemical cardioversions, peritoneal dialysis and Advanced Cardiac Life Support algorithms.

RN to patient ratio for each shift: Day 4:1 Night 5:1
Tech to patient ratio: Day 9:1 Evening 9:1 Night 10:1
Average # of patients per day: 31 - 33
Number of beds in unit: 35 **Average length of stay:** 3.5

Special equipment used in the department: Telemetry Monitors, 12 lead EKG and transport monitors, Pulse Oximeter, automatic B/P machine, IV pumps, PCA pumps, specialty beds, DVT compression devices, feeding pumps, lift equipment.

Patients admitted to the unit from: ED, direct admissions, transfers from ICU, Cardiac Cath, radiology, PACU and acute care areas.

Medical conditions of patients on the unit: Heart failure, unstable angina and other cardiac conditions requiring treatment with IV medications and close monitoring, renal patients including peritoneal dialysis, diabetes, pulmonary, CVA, cardiac cath and medical/surgical.

Resources available in unit during a crisis: Medical Response Team, Stroke Alert Team, Hospitalist, Telemetry Charge RN, Nurse Clinician, Cardiac CNS, Monitor Technician, Department Secretary, Patient Care Technician, Respiratory Therapist, Patient Representative, Chaplain, House Supervisor/PSC and Security.

Unit uses: Omnicell, SureMed, telemetry monitors and pneumatic tube system.

Weekend Option is used? Yes

RNs are required to work every 3rd weekend. PCT, US, MT's every other weekend.

Staff rotate holidays yearly. Self-Scheduling and Shared Governance environment.

Uniforms are required? Yes, RN's- royal blue; PCT's, US, MT's- ceil blue.

Orientation to the unit varies according to experience. Minimum 3-6 weeks.

Orientation occurs on All shifts.

Other comments specific to the unit:

Bedside charting and medications are conveniently located in each private patient room. ACLS and EKG interpretation preferred at time of hire. Frequent clinical education and EKG classes offered. CCRN, PCCN or Med/Surg certification encouraged. Telemetry experience preferred but nurses with strong Med/Surg background are periodically considered. Nurse Residents and Externs are important to the continuing growth of the department.