Nursing Unit Descriptions

MED/SURG UNITS:

Orthopaedic/Trauma
This is a 22-bed unit that specializes in all things orthopaedic. We care for a diverse population that includes primary and revision joint replacement procedures, spine, sports and trauma patients. This surgical unit is very busy related to turn over as patients typically have a three day length of stay. Typical RN to patient ratio is 1:4 on days, 1:5 on nights.

Medicine Specialties
Practicing innovative, evidenced-based care, our 36-bed Medicine Specialties unit cares for a dynamic patient population including pre-transplant, cardiac rule-out, GI, renal, endocrine, rheumatology and a vast variety of other medical conditions. Nurses here specialize in the post-care of patients undergoing GI, IR and other procedures that are well known to the Rocky Mountain Region for leading edge technology. The typical nurse-to-patient ratio is 1:4 for day shift and to 1:5 on night shift.

Solid Organ Transplant
The Transplant Unit is an 18-bed unit specializing in the perioperative care of transplant recipients, donors, and hepatobiliary surgeries. We provide care to lung, liver, kidney and pancreas transplants as well as donor nephrectomy and donor hepatectomy patients. We work closely with the entire transplant team to prepare patients for life after transplant.

Neurosciences
This is a 36-bed mixed neuroscience unit specializing in evidence based care for patients with a variety of brain and spinal cord diseases/injury. As part of a JC Comprehensive Stroke Center, we specialize in caring for highly complex stroke patients; in addition, we are a designated epilepsy center providing comprehensive care to our seizure patients. The typical nurse-to-patient ratio is 1:4 (days) and 1:5 (nights).

Inpatient Rehabilitation
This 12-bed unit focuses on patients with physical disabilities such as strokes, spinal cord injuries, wounds or burns, and loss of limbs due to disease or trauma. Unit nurses also help people with chronic disabilities such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s disease. The unit’s role is to promote independence in our patients and help them achieve their greatest potential. We take a holistic approach, by closely working with physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, dietary and a variety of medical and surgical teams. The typical nurse-to-patient ratio is 1:4 during the day and 1:5 or 6 on the night shift, depending on acuity.

Pulmonary
UCH has been ranked 2nd in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for treating respiratory disorders. Our Inpatient Pulmonary nurses in this 36-bed unit care for nationally referred patients with complicated pulmonary diseases including Pulmonary Hypertension, those with respiratory infections post lung transplant, those undergoing thoracic surgery, esophagectomies and other pulmonary procedures. We care for the Ear, Nose and Throat surgical patients along with other medical populations. This unit also supports the Pulmonary Hypertension Center, which is one of the largest, leading centers in the U.S. and the world and recently was awarded as a Comprehensive Care Center for Pulmonary Hypertension. The unit is high functioning and
fast paced, with incredible on the job training about these very specialized populations. The typical nurse-to-patient ratio is 1:4 on days 1:5 on nights.

**Surgical Specialties**
This 36 bed inpatient unit provides expert care to patients requiring hospitalization before and/or after surgery for the following surgical specialties – surgical oncology, endocrine surgery, urology, bariatric, general surgery, plastics, and trauma acute care services. The nurse to patient staffing ratios on this unit is 1:4 on dayshift and 1:5 on nightshift.

**Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant**
Nurses on these two 36-bed units provide multidisciplinary care to medical/surgical oncology, medicine overflow patients, oncology/hematology patients requiring active cancer treatment, post-operative care, chemotherapy/biotherapy administration, radiation treatments/implants, autologous, allogeneic and cord blood stem cell transplants and supportive measures. We also care for gynecology-oncology patients (primarily post operatively), as well as Palliative Care and End of Life. The typical nurse-to-patient ratio is 1:4 on days 1:5 on nights.

**Cardiology Medicine**
Cardiology Medicine Unit (ACMU) is a new 22 bed unit that is a recent addition to the well-established Cardiology Service Line at the University of Colorado Hospital. We care for a wide variety of patients including heart failure, acute myocardial infarction (AMI), and stable post interventional cardiology procedure patients. All of our beds have remote telemetry capabilities. Our unit works closely with all of our Cardiologists, including Advanced Heart Failure, Congenital and AMI teams. The ACMU utilizes evidence based practice, a team approach and collaboration with a multidisciplinary environment. Our commitment to provide high quality patient care, teamwork as a unit and dedication to empower staff make this unit a great place to work. Our assignments are made based on acuity of the patient along with the experience and knowledge of the nurse caring for this specialized patient population

**Acute Care of the Elderly (ACE Unit)**
Acute Care of the Elderly unit is a 21-bed unit, specializing in acute care for elderly patients with typical diagnosis of congestive heart failure, infections, falls, and generalized deconditioning. This unit proudly earned the Nurses Improving Care for Health system Elders (NICHE) certification in 2010 and is the only ACE unit currently in the state. The ACE unit has been recognized in the *U.S. News* report and ranks (43rd) in Geriatrics. The ACE unit has a dynamic interdisciplinary daily meeting to help with plan of care and provides a team approach to the care of the patients. The typical nurse to patient ratio is 1:4 on days and 1:5 on nights.

**Internal Medicine (IMED)**
Internal Medicine is an exciting new 18-bed unit that provides multidisciplinary care to acutely ill patients with a wide variety of medical and surgical diagnoses. You will be exposed to endless learning opportunities as you work closely with the treatment team to provide evidence-based care. The culture of the unit strongly promotes collaboration across all disciplines and creates an atmosphere conducive to learning. The majority of our admissions come from the Emergency Department and direct admits from outpatient clinics.

**MOM/BABY OB UNITS:**

**Women’s Care Center (WCC)**
The Women’s Care Center (WCC) includes 7 Triage Beds, 5 high-risk LDR beds, 14 antepartum/postpartum beds, 2 operating rooms and 2 recovery room beds. The WCC cares for
high-risk obstetrical patients from their 20th week of pregnancy through delivery. The staff provides the highest level care for the sickest of mothers and infants prior to and during delivery, whether a vaginal or cesarean delivery. After delivery they continue to care for the complicated maternal patient while the infant will be cared for in the NICU that is adjacent to the unit.

**Birth Center (BC)**
The Birth Center includes 7 LDRs and 22 beds for postpartum and GYN care, as well as an OR for cesarean and PP complications. The Birth Center provides delivery and post-partum services for the low-risk obstetric patient. The nurses are skilled in supporting the patient and family throughout the labor process and delivery, including un-medicated and water births. The nurses also care for patients before during and after delivering by cesarean section. The nurses will care for the mother and child together as a "couplet" after the delivery. Rooming in is encouraged to promote bonding; however, a fully equipped nursery is also available.

**Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)**
Our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is a 50-bed level 3 Nursery caring for preterm and critically ill newborns. The NICU is a regional referral center for extremely premature infants and we care for babies with a variety of medical problems. Our multidisciplinary team approach incorporates input from parents, primary care nurses, physicians, neonatal nurse practitioners, physical therapists, respiratory therapists, lactation consultants, a neonatal dietician, case management, and social work. Our focus is on family-centered care and patient outcomes to promote the best care for patients and families during their NICU stay.

**CRITICAL CARE UNITS:**

**Surgical/Trauma ICU (STICU)**
This 24-bed unit provides intensive Care for the critically ill clients who require intensive observation following surgery. We admit trauma patients, post-surgical patients and liver transplants. The unit provides hemodynamic, respiratory, and neurological monitoring as well as intensive therapeutic modalities, sedation and pain management. The typical nurse-to-patient ratio is based on patient acuity.

**Cardiothoracic ICU (CTICU)**
This highly specialized 17-bed unit cares for open-heart patients, heart transplants, lung transplants, as well as all ventricular assist devices and ECMO patients. The typical nurse-to-patient ratio is based on patient acuity.

**Medical ICU (MICU)**
The Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) is a busy 24-bed unit providing care for critically ill adult medical patients. We care for a wide variety of diseases and conditions that include (but are not limited to) pulmonary diseases, septic shock and multi-organ failure, GI bleeds, liver disease, acute respiratory failure, and drug overdose. Therapies common to the MICU include ventilator support, vasoactive medications, continuous renal replacement therapy, and invasive hemodynamic monitoring. The typical nurse-to-patient ratio is based on patient acuity but is typically 1:2 or 1:1 if needed.

**Neuro ICU**
The University of Colorado Hospital’s Neurosurgery and Neuro-Critical Care program is an integral subspecialty and one of the most comprehensive neurosurgical departments in the United States. Our 24-bed Neuro Intensive Care Unit provides a dynamic and multi-disciplinary environment for nurses seeking knowledge and experience in Neurosciences where ongoing
education and research is a priority. Our Neuro ICU provides acute care to a wide variety of neurosurgical and neurological patient populations with diagnoses and services including: stroke, sub-arachnoid hemorrhage, cerebral aneurysm, AVM and neurovascular surgery, interventional neuro-radiology, oncology & brain tumors, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury to name a few. We are a Comprehensive Stroke Center and Regional Referral Center for the Rocky Mountain Region. Patient assignments are based on patient acuity.

**Burn Center**
We are a 19-bed, American Burn Association-accredited regional burn center serving the state of Colorado and the surrounding region. Our multidisciplinary team provides expert emergent, acute, and rehabilitative care for the burn population including all follow-up and referral services. We offer progressive therapies in an evidence-based environment. In addition to the comprehensive burn care we provide, we have a very active community outreach and prevention program targeted to our community and to emergency medical service providers. The typical nurse-to-patient ratio is based on patient acuity.

**Cardiac ICU (CICU)**
The 12-bed CICU provides care and monitoring for critically ill patients who require intensive cardiac care. Patient population includes pre-transplant, heart failure requiring close monitoring or vasopressor support, acute MI, unstable post interventional cardiology procedures, patients requiring invasive monitoring, ventilator support, intra-aortic balloon pump, continuous renal replacement therapy post-arrest hypothermia, and mechanical circulatory support devices. Our unit provides a dynamic and multidisciplinary environment for nurses seeking knowledge and experience in Cardiology where teamwork and ongoing education are priorities. The typical nurse-to-patient ratio is 2:1 or 1:1.

**Cardiac Progressive Care Unit (CPCU)**
The 12-bed CPCU unit specializes in acutely ill adults with medical and cardiac conditions, as well as patients who have undergone Interventional Radiology, Electro Physiology, and Cardiac-Thoracic surgeries. Nurses here also provide care for patients who require cardiac drips, certain invasive hemodynamic monitoring, mechanical circulatory assist devices and heart transplantation. Our unit provides a dynamic and multidisciplinary environment for nurses seeking knowledge and experience in Cardiology where teamwork and ongoing education are priorities. Nursing assignments are made on a shift-to-shift basis, taking into consideration staff skill levels and patient acuity to ensure we have the proper care needed for every patient each shift.

**Medical/Surgical Progressive Care Unit (MSPCU)**
This 36-bed unit specializes in acutely ill adults with medical diagnosis and post surgical interventions. This highly skilled nursing unit falls under the division of critical care and follows the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses model of progressive care as part of the continuum of critical care. The unit will have a mixed patient population of medical and surgical specialties that will allow nursing skill diversity and foster a broad wealth of knowledge by every team member. Nursing assignments are made on a shift-to-shift basis, taking into consideration staff skill levels and patient acuity to ensure we have the proper care needed for every patient each shift.

**PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES:**

**Inpatient PACU**
Our inpatient PACU nurses perform Phase I and Phase II recovery for both inpatient and outpatient surgeries, averaging 40 - 50 cases a day. Surgeries include: kidney, pancreas and liver transplants; gastric bypass; lung surgeries including biopsies and VATS procedures; ENT surgeries; orthopaedic and spine surgeries; whipples; thyroidectomies; GYN/GU surgeries; tumor resections; craniotomies; and various other general surgeries. Our nurses also recover patients with general anesthesia from IR, EP and Cath Lab, and other procedural areas.

**Inpatient OR**
UCH’s Inpatient OR area has 25 Operating Rooms including 2 Hybrid Operating Rooms and 1 MRI Operating Room. In both circulating and scrubbing roles, our nurses are members of multiple specialty teams including transplant, vascular, cardio-thoracic, robotics, neurosurgery, Ear Nose Throat, spine, burns, plastics, orthopedics, gynecology, urology and general surgeries.

**Outpatient (Day Surgery) OR**
The Day Surgery Peri-Operative services focuses primarily on day surgeries, but also handles some inpatient procedures. Common surgeries include those related to ophthalmology, ENT, orthopaedic/sports surgeries, GYN, laparoscopic procedures, hand, podiatry, urology and dental procedures. Outpatient day surgery supports 8 ORs, with 50 + short cases a day.

**EMERGENCY NURSING SERVICES:**

**Emergency Department**
Our Emergency Department is a very busy Level II Trauma Center with 73 beds and 4 Resuscitation Rooms. We are also a Stroke Center, Burn Center and Cardiac Center with a current average of 100,000 + visits per year.

**AMBULATORY AND PROCEDURAL:**

**Outpatient Cancer Center**
The University of Colorado Cancer Center is the only National Cancer Institute designated comprehensive cancer center located in Colorado. In addition to treating all solid organ malignancies, there is a blood and marrow transplant program, and a comprehensive radiation therapy program. One-hundred fifteen nurses are currently dispersed in a total of 10 clinics and 2 infusion centers, and typically work day shifts. Ambulatory nurses working in the cancer center are essential to the multidisciplinary team approach to care, working alongside with medical assistants, providers, dieticians, social workers, psychologists, and patient navigators. The Cancer Center is certified by the Quality Oncology Performance Initiative (QOPI), demonstrating a commitment to excellence and ongoing quality improvement in hematology and oncology ambulatory practice.

**Cardiac and Vascular Center**
The University of Colorado Cardiac and Vascular Center supports procedural and ambulatory patient populations. The procedural arena encompasses Pre-Operative and PACU, Interventional Radiology, Cardiac Catheterization Lab, and Cardiac Electrophysiology Lab. Nurses in these fast-paced specialty areas are well-versed in patient assessment, dysrhythmia identification and intervention, cardiac sedation and medications, and recovery of various cardiac and vascular procedures. One-hundred nurses working in the procedural areas are part of an interdisciplinary team, working closely with physicians, fellows, radiology technologists, cardiovascular technologists, and vendors. Operational hours vary but are typically open 7:00am to 5:30pm.