



## **Metro-Denver Nursing Unit and Ambulatory Clinic Descriptions**

Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO

### **MED/SURG UNITS:**

#### **Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit**

Acute Care for Elders unit is a 21-bed unit, specializing in acute care for elder adult patients with medical diagnoses such as pneumonia, congestive heart failure, infections, post stroke, falls, and generalized deconditioning among many others. In addition, many patients have comorbidities involving complex medical and nursing care including diabetes, COPD, renal failure, dementia and delirium. This unit proudly earned the Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) certification in 2010 and is one of the only ACE units currently in the state. The ACE unit at UCHealth has been recognized in the *U.S. News* report and ranks (43rd) in Geriatrics. The ACE unit prides itself on providing high quality multidisciplinary care and participates in dynamic interdisciplinary daily rounds to assist with plan of care development and providing 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.

#### **Cardiology Medicine**

Cardiology Medicine Unit (ACMU) is a 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.

#### **Internal Medicine (iMED) Unit**

Internal Medicine is an 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.

#### **Medicine Specialties Unit**

Medicine Specialties is a fast paced 36 bed unit that provides a strong foundation in the care of medical patients with a wide variety of diagnoses. You will also have the opportunity to specialize in the area of post procedural GI patients. The team has a strong sense of interdisciplinary collaboration and continually supports the pursuit of learning and evidenced-based practice in a dynamic, high acuity environment. Our nurses are often found leading the charge with streamlined operations and practice change while creating real and lasting connections with our patients. Our patients are primarily admitted directly from the Emergency Department and Outpatient Clinics. We also receive many patients that are transferred from the ICU and Progressive Care units. The typical nurse to patient ratio is 1:4 for day shift and 1:5 on night shift. The typical CNA/ACP ratio is 1:9 for day shift and 1:12 on night shift. Come

and join our exemplary team that is dedicated to creating the best patient experience in a most supportive environment.

### **Transplant & Hepatology Unit**

The Transplant & Hepatology Unit is a 46-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 before, during and after transplantation. We are unique in that we admit kidneys, livers and pancreas transplants directly to our specialty med/surg floor. We have a very inclusive team and we pride ourselves on our high quality and safe care.

### **Medicine Health Services Unit**

Medicine Health Services is a new 36-bed unit that delivers personalized care to patients that present with an extensive range of medical and surgical diagnoses. The new unit is seeking staff members that are able to perform in a fast paced environment and are able to provide care that focuses on providing individualized care to each patient and family member that comes through our doors. U.S. News ranks UCHHealth as the #1 hospital in Colorado and ranks among the top academic medical centers in the nation. Growth continues to advance in our acute care setting and the chance to join a new interdisciplinary team focused on caring for a diverse patient population is an opportunity that would be an ideal job for any healthcare professional seeking to practice in an environment that promotes excellence and enhances learning and development.

### **Neurosciences Unit**

The Neuroscience Unit here at UCHHealth is a 36-bed unit specializing in the complex care of both neurosurgical and neurological patients. We are a Comprehensive Stroke Certified Center. We care for highly complex stroke cases from around the region. We have the experience and expertise to care for patients with large ischemic strokes, intracerebral hemorrhage and subarachnoid hemorrhages. All of our nurses are NIH Certified to care for this specific patient population. Our neurosurgical population consists of patients with a variety of brain and spine tumors, aneurysms, DBS placement for Parkinson's patients and a wide array of spinal surgeries. We are a Level 4 Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) accredited by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers. Our patients are admitted to our EMU to provide comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services to patients with uncontrolled seizures. Our nurses receive special training in order to safely care for the epileptic patients. As an academic medical center, we embrace a multidisciplinary, collaborative commitment to excellence in patient care and advanced professional practice through:

- Achievement of specialty certification: Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN) and Stroke Certified Registered Nurse (SCRN).
- Our shared governance structure with unit-based committees offers opportunities to share talents and professional growth.
- Our UEXCEL program provides opportunities for clinical advancement that permits registered nurse career progression, while encouraging the nurse to remain in a clinical position delivering direct patient care.

Come and explore limitless opportunities within this specialized Neurosciences Unit and acquire valuable knowledge and skills. The typical nurse-to-patient ratio is 1:4 (days) and 1:5 (nights). Click [HERE](#) for an interview article with the Metro-Denver Neuroscience Unit Associate Nursing Manager.

### **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.

### **Orthopedic/Trauma Unit**

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### **Pulmonary**

UCH has been ranked #1 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 is recognized 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.

### **Rehabilitation (Inpatient) Unit**

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 1:5 during the day and 1:5 or 6 on the night shift, depending on acuity.

### **Surgical Specialties**

The Surgical Specialties Unit is a dynamic, highly engaged, 36 bed unit which services patients requiring hospitalization before and/or after a wide variety of surgical procedures, as well as post trauma. We work alongside world class surgeons to provide expert care to 7 different surgical lines of service including surgical oncology, trauma, urology, bariatrics, endocrine, colorectal, and general surgery. On the Surgical Specialties Unit we believe that collaboration is key; allowing staff such as nurses, aides, physicians, and case management to work together as a successful and thriving team. Our health care practice is evidence based, meaning patients receive up to date, cutting edge care. The typical nurse-to-patient staffing ratio on this unit is 1:4 on day shift and 1:5 on the night shift. Click [HERE](#) for a brief video from the Surgical Specialties Unit at Metro-Denver.

### **WOMEN'S SERVICE UNITS:**

#### **Women's Care Center (WCC)**

The Women's Care Center (WCC) includes 12 labor and delivery rooms, 7 antepartum rooms, 3 operating rooms and a recovery room as well as the Obstetric Emergency Room. Patients 20 weeks and above with pregnancy concerns or complications are evaluated in the OBED. Patients 24 weeks or greater that require hospitalization during their pregnancy make up our antepartum patient population. They receive monitoring and expert OB care on our inpatient unit until discharged to home or delivery. Labor and Delivery experiences vary from low risk interventions such as water births and nitrous oxide to the highest risk deliveries. All of these patient care opportunities are available on the WCC and our nurses strive to provide personalized care using the latest evidence based practices.

### **Mother Baby Unit (MBU)**

The Mother Baby Unit is a 36 bed unit where new mothers, healthy babies and their families are cared for after delivery – both vaginal births and cesarean sections. Our patients are a mix of both low and high risk acuity. We also care for some GYN surgical patients post procedure, and early gestation Antepartum patients. The nursing care includes teaching new parents to care for themselves and their newborns, monitoring the wellbeing of our patients while in the hospital, providing resources for teaching, learning and special needs once discharged. As a Baby Friendly designated hospital, our staff provides breastfeeding assistance to maintain our standards of being a center of breastfeeding excellence.

### **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:**

#### **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 24-bed CICU is a mixed-acuity, medically-focused unit that provides a continuum of care for both critically ill patients (ICU level care) and acutely ill patients (PCU level care) who require advanced cardiac care. The intensive-care level patient population on this unit consists of unstable pre-heart transplants, heart failure requiring close monitoring or vasopressor support, acute myocardial infarctions, unstable post-interventional cardiology procedures, post-arrest targeted temperature management, and other patients requiring invasive hemodynamic monitoring. Medical devices managed on ICU level patients include intra-aortic balloon pumps, continuous renal replacement therapy, Arctic Sun, swan-ganz catheters, ventricular assist devices, impella pumps, temporary pacemakers and ventilators. The PCU level patient population on this unit consists of patients requiring vasoactive and anti-arrhythmic drips, limited hemodynamic monitoring, pre/post cardio-thoracic surgery (heart transplant, CABG) and post-interventional patients. Medical devices managed on PCU level patients include pressure monitoring equipment, ventricular assist devices and temporary pacemakers. The CICU provides a dynamic and multi-disciplinary environment for nurses seeking knowledge and experience in the cardiology field where teamwork, ongoing education and superior patient care are priorities. Nursing assignments are made on a shift-to-shift basis that take patient acuity and staff skill level into consideration to ensure each patient receives superior care. Typical nurse to patient ratios range from 1:1 and 2:1 for ICU level patients, and 3:1 for PCU level patients.

### **Cardiothoracic ICU (CTICU)**

Our 17 bed CT ICU is the regional destination for comprehensive circulatory and respiratory support for critically ill adults. We specialize in open-heart surgeries, ventricular assist devices, heart and lung transplants, ECMO, aortic aneurysm repair, vascular and thoracic surgeries. We utilize a multitude of modalities at the bedside ranging from vasoactive medications to complete cardio-pulmonary support. We are a multidisciplinary team that focuses on holistic health, early family engagement, supportive education and improving outcomes. Nurse-to-patient ratios are based on acuity and vary from 1:2, 1:1 to 2:1.

### **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, invasive hemodynamic monitoring, and post-arrest targeted temperature management. Outstanding teamwork and collaboration with our multidisciplinary team make our unit an amazing place to work!

### **Medical/Surgical Progressive Care Unit (MSPCU)**

This 36-bed unit is a part of the Critical Care Division and follows the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses model of progressive care as part of the continuum of critical care. It's patient populations are diverse with systemic imbalances including, but not limited to: pulmonary, cardiac, electrolyte instabilities, sepsis, and surgical. Specific diagnoses include: cardiothoracic surgery, valve replacement, aortic repairs, revascularization, breast flaps, DKA, ETOH withdrawal, respiratory distress, COPD exacerbation, CHF exacerbation, GI bleed, new or chronic cardiac arrhythmias, sepsis, post-codes and emergency upgrades, and temp/permanent pacemakers. We receive downgrades from the ICU, upgrades from med/surg, direct admissions from the ED and outside facilities, and discharge patients about 40% of the time, otherwise they are transferred to their next appropriate level of care. This allows for increased variety of skill and a broad knowledge base expected of every team member. Typical nurse to patient ratios are 3:1 both day and night.

### **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, and is a Beacon Unit of Excellence as designated by the AACN. 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.

### **Surgical/Trauma ICU (STICU)**

This 24-bed unit provides care for the critically ill clients who require intensive observation following surgery or trauma. We admit trauma patients, a variety of post-surgical patients, liver transplants, and living liver donors. 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.

## **PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES:**

[PeriOp-101 Fellowship Program Website](#) (In collaboration with Post-Baccalaureate Nurse Residency Program)

### **Inpatient Operating Room (AIP OR)**

UCHealth Metro Denver is excited to present a perioperative fellowship program! Our fellowship is innovatively designed to provide a unique educational opportunity to registered nurses who have a desire to pursue a career in the operating room. Throughout the program you will learn evidence-based standards that elevate your knowledge and skills to provide excellent quality of care. Our program encompasses a didactic program, simulations, on-line learning through the AORN PeriOp 101 course and clinical rotations. The first portion of orientation includes a combination of didactic education, on-line learning, simulations and shadowing opportunities. The remainder of orientation will be spent rotating through various surgical specialties applying the roles and responsibilities of the circulator and scrub nurse. 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. Our Inpatient OR unit has 29 Operating Rooms including 2 Hybrid Operating Rooms and 1 MRI Operating Room. Our unit performs the weird and the wonderful complex surgeries.

### **Outpatient (Day Surgery) Operating Room (AOP 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.

### **Inpatient Preop (Pathways only)**

Our inpatient Preop nurses perform preop on most patients having surgery, including outpatients, inpatients, step-down's, and ICU, averaging 60-80 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 PACU**

Our inpatient PACU nurses perform Phase I and Phase II recovery for both inpatient and outpatient surgeries, Step-down's, and some ICU's, averaging 60 - 80 cases a day. Recovery of outpatient, inpatients, step-down patients, and some ICU's. 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.

### **Outpatient PrePost**

Our outpatient PrePost nurses perform Preop, Phase I and Phase II recovery for both inpatient and outpatient surgeries, averaging 20 - 30 cases a day. Surgeries include: ENT surgeries; orthopaedic surgeries; thyroidectomies; GYN/GU surgeries; dental procedures; inpatient bronchoscopy; and various other general surgeries.



## **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 CARE SERVICES:**

With shifting patient populations, the Ambulatory Care setting is an exciting career opportunity for nurses. The University of Colorado Hospital has over 70 Ambulatory clinical practices with more than 1 million visits per year. Patient populations are served in various Primary Care, Medical and Surgical Specialties. The Ambulatory RN is part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team including Physicians, Advanced Practice Providers (APPs), Medical Assistants, Pharmacists, Social Workers and Technicians. Nursing care in this interdisciplinary setting focuses on providing preventative wellness and managing acute and chronic medical needs allowing the nurse to be an integral part of the patient's healthcare continuum. Nursing care is team-based including: nurse visits, procedural visits and telehealth nursing (nurse triage, video visits). Choosing ambulatory nursing allows a nurse to find his/her passion and become a leader in an ever-evolving patient care delivery system. (Only hiring in February and July [Residency Program](#) cohorts.)

### **GI/ Endoscopy Clinic:**

GI/Endoscopy has 2 Motility procedure rooms, 10 Routine Endoscopy procedure rooms and 5 Therapeutic Endoscopy procedure rooms including 4 fluoroscopy rooms. Our excellent clinical team is made up of nurses, endoscopy techs and CNAs. We help perform procedures on inpatient and outpatient clients both in the department and on roadshows for critical patients in ICUs. Our nurses assist in procedures, administer conscious sedation for routine procedures and also collaborate with the anesthesia team on some routine & therapeutic cases. We pre-op and recover our own GI patients for procedures including: Esophageal/Anal Motility exams, EGD, Colonoscopy, ECO, sigmoidoscopy, PEG tube placement, Liver biopsy, various bariatric endoscopy procedures, Cryotherapy, Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), Endoscopic Ultrasound, Fine Needle Aspiration, Celiac Plexus Block/Neurolysis, Endoscopic Mucosal Resection, Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection, Radiofrequency Ablation, Per Oral Endoscopic Myotomy, Single Balloon Enteroscopy, etc.

### **Blood Disorders Infusion Center:**

The Blood Disorders Infusion Center (BIC) supports patients with both malignant and benign blood disorders, including patients undergoing stem cell transplants. It is a part of the Outpatient Cancer Center (see description below). RNs in the BIC care for patient infusion needs before, during, and after chemotherapy or Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT). In addition to chemotherapy administration, RNs are responsible for blood product transfusions, electrolyte replacements, and other supportive medications, as well as patient assessment and triage. RNs typically work four 9 hour days per week, and care for 4-6 patients over the course of the shift.

### **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, dietitians, 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.

**Primary Care:**

The University of Colorado Hospital's Primary Care clinics comprise a combination of family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatric practices with various locations spanning across the Front Range. Each practice offers a patient-centered approach to care focusing on disease management and reducing identified gaps in care. The Primary Care provider teams include Physicians, Physicians Assistants and Nurse Practitioners, as well as Residents and Medical Students. More recently, the Primary Care clinics have undergone Practice Transformation, a team based approach to care that focuses on a consistent patient experience across all practices. Ambulatory nurses encompass a dynamic role in the multidisciplinary care team, offering expertise in nurse run clinics including Anticoagulation, New OB visits and Hypertension management. Ambulatory nurses manage patient care via telephone triage, helping patients remotely with care coordination and population health. The Ambulatory nurse's role is vital to the continued development and success of the Primary Care team.

**Cancer Center Infusion Center:**

RNs in the Cancer Center Infusion Center care for cancer patients with infusion needs, most commonly chemotherapy. In addition to chemotherapy administration, RNs are responsible for blood product transfusions, electrolyte replacements, and other supportive medications, as well as patient assessment and triage. RNs typically work four 9 hour shifts per week, and care for 6 patients over the course of the shift. The University of Colorado Cancer Center is the only National Cancer Institute designated comprehensive cancer center located in Colorado. Ambulatory nurses working in the cancer center are essential to the multidisciplinary team approach to care, working alongside with medical assistants, providers, dietitians, 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.

**Outpatient Infusion Center (OIC)**

RNs in the Outpatient Infusion Center care for the infusion needs of patients with a variety of diagnoses including Multiple Sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Osteoporosis, and Crohn's Disease. They also care for the infusion needs of pre and post organ transplant patients. In addition to medication administration, RNs are responsible for blood product transfusions, electrolyte replacements, peripheral and central venous access management, and patient assessment and monitoring. Outpatient Infusion RNs have the opportunity to collaborate with members of the multidisciplinary team from numerous ambulatory specialty clinics. RNs typically work four 9 hour shifts per week, and care for approximately 6 patients over the course of the shift.