Advanced Care Partner Program: Nursing Unit Descriptions

MED/SURG UNITS:

Orthopedic/Trauma
This is a 36-bed unit that specializes in all things orthopedic. We pride ourselves on cutting edge care, consistently high patient satisfaction, and quality outcomes that have netted us a national US News ranking for Orthopedics. We care for a diverse population that includes primary and revision joint replacement procedures, spine, sports medicine, limb restoration, and trauma patients. This surgical unit is very busy related to turnover, as patients typically have a two to three day length of stay. Typical RN to patient ratio is 1:4 on days, 1:5 on nights.

Medicine Specialties
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 areas of hepatology and 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.

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
The Neuroscience Unit here at UCHealth 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).

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 day shift 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 diagnoses 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 one of the only ACE units 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.

**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 UCH 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.

**Internal Medicine (iMED)**

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.

**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 postpartum 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 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.

**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, 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, 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, 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.

**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; orthopedic 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, orthopedic/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:

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. ACPs working in the cancer center are essential to the multidisciplinary team approach to care, working alongside nurses, medical assistants, providers, dieticians, social workers, psychologists, and patient navigators. In the ACP role, you will work at least one 8-hour shift per week assisting with gaining patient's history, collecting vital signs and relevant medical information, performing phlebotomy and working alongside nurses and other providers to support patients in this busy outpatient environment. 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.