

**PROTOCOL FOR: Cardiovascular Monitoring in the Perioperative Phase**

**DESIRED PATIENT**

- OUTCOME:**
1. The patient has tissue or wound perfusion consistent with or improved from baseline levels established preoperatively, as evidenced by:
    - blood pressure  $\pm$  20% preoperative baseline levels, or as prescribed by physician
    - pulse strong and regular
    - absence of new dysrhythmias
    - absence of vertigo or orthostatic changes
    - skin not moist
    - hemoglobin level within range prescribed by physician, if drawn
    - return to baseline orientation to person and place
  2. The patient is at or returning to normothermia at the conclusion of the postoperative phase, as evidenced by:
    - warm skin
    - absence of shivering
    - pt. describes acceptable level of warmth
    - temperature of at least 36°C prior to discharge
  3. The patient has fluid, electrolyte, and acid-base balance consistent with or improving from baseline levels established preoperatively, as evidenced by:
    - minimum urine output of 30ml/hour
    - electrolytes within normal limits, if drawn
  4. The patient will receive appropriate prescribed medications, administered safely.

**CLINICAL  
ASSESSMENT  
AND CARE:**

1. Obtain and document baseline vital signs for all patients
2. Assess and document vital signs, including heart rate and rhythm, blood pressure, respirations, and pain level q 15 minutes intraoperatively and postoperatively, more frequently per order or patient condition.
3. Perform non-invasive and invasive monitoring (ECG, arterial BP, CVP, PA, PCW) as appropriate
4. Consider contributory factors
  - assess intake and output, note quality of urine
  - monitor laboratory data
  - observe for signs of bleeding
  - assess mental status / LOC
  - observe surgical site for signs of bleeding

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5. Provide interventions for causative factors
  - administer IV fluids/blood components as indicated to maintain hydration and adequate fluid balance
  - re-warm patient postoperatively *prn*
  - administer vasoactive agents as ordered
  - use analgesics with caution
  - position patient as appropriate
  - maintain patency of IV lines
  
6. Report any of the following conditions:
  - blood pressure > +20% preoperative baseline, or outside prescribed parameters
  - signs or symptoms of significant bleeding
  - new dysrhythmias
  - vertigo or orthostatic changes
  - unexplained disorientation to person and place
  - inadequate urine output
  - abnormal lab values

**APPROVAL:** Nursing Standards Committee

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12/89

**REVISION DATES:** 10/90, 3/91, 3/93, 7/97, 6/03, 2/08, 8/09