

PROTOCOL FOR: PACU Admission

- POLICY:**
1. Hand-off report will be received by the PACU RN from the anesthesia care provider or the RN responsible for monitoring the patient during the procedure. This report will occur prior to or upon patient arrival in JDH PACU and upon patient arrival in FSC PACU.
 2. The patient will receive a priority based and comprehensive health assessment of major body systems.

DESIRED PATIENT

- OUTCOME:**
1. The patient will receive a comprehensive health assessment of major body systems upon arrival to the PACU.
 2. The patient will receive care guided by the assessment data.

**CLINICAL
ASSESSMENT
AND CARE:**

1. A comprehensive health assessment of major body systems will occur with initial priority given to:
 - Airway patency;
 - Breathing (respiratory drive);
 - Cardiovascular sufficiency; and
 - level of consciousness.
2. A comprehensive health assessment of major body systems will occur with secondary priority, as appropriate, given to:
 - vascular access;
 - EKG monitoring, as needed;
 - infusing solutions and medications;
 - pain level;
 - tissue perfusion / skin condition;
 - radial arterial pulse checks;
 - femoral dorsal pedalis and posterior tibialis pulse checks;
 - dressings;
 - sensory and motor function;
 - disabilities;
 - laboratory values;
 - temperature / thermoregulation;
 - age-specific considerations;
 - religious / cultural considerations; and
 - other special needs as identified through report.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/98

REVISION DATE: 5/00, 2/08, 8/09