

Postoperative Nursing Management

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The post anesthesia care unit (PACU) :
also called the post anesthesia recovery room, is located adjacent to the operating rooms. Patients still under anesthesia or recovering from anesthesia are placed in this unit for easy access to experienced, highly skilled nurses, anesthesiologists or anesthesiologists, surgeons, advanced hemodynamic and pulmonary monitoring and support, special equipment, and medications



The PACU is kept quiet, clean, and free of unnecessary equipment. This area is painted in soft, pleasing colors and has indirect lighting, a soundproof ceiling, equipment that controls or eliminates noise (plastic emesis basins, rubber bumpers on beds and tables), and isolated but visible quarters for disruptive patients. The PACU should also be well ventilated. These features benefit the patient by helping to decrease anxiety and promote comfort.

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The PACU bed provides easy access to the patient, is safe and easily movable, can be readily placed in position to facilitate use of measures to counteract shock, and has features that facilitate care, such as intravenous (IV) poles, side rails, wheel brakes, and a chart storage rack

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PACU nurse provide frequent (every 15 minutes) monitoring of the patient's pulse, electrocardiogram, respiratory rate, blood pressure, and pulse oximeter value (blood oxygen level).

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The following measures are used to determine the patient's readiness for discharge from the PACU:

- 1-**Stable vital signs
- 2-** Orientation to person, place, and time
- 3-** Uncompromised pulmonary function
- 4-** Pulse oximetry indicating adequate blood oxygen saturation
- 5-** Urine output at least 30 mL /h
- 6-** Nausea and vomiting absent or under control
- 7-** Minimal pain

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Postoperative Pt.: Assessment

Assess for complications

1-Neurologic

Delirium

Stroke

2-Urinary

Acute urine retention

Urinary tract infection

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Postoperative Pt.: Assessment

3-Functional

Weakness

Fatigue

4-Respiratory

Atelectasis

Pneumonia

Pulmonary embolism

Aspiration

5-Cardiovascular

Shock

Thrombophlebitis

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Postoperative Pt.: Assessment

6-Gastrointestinal

Constipation

Paralytic ileus

Bowel obstruction

7-Wound

Infection

Dehiscence

Evisceration

Delayed healing

Hemorrhage

Hematoma