



# ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

## Clinical Practice: Frequently Asked Question

### Q: What are the differences between Phase I, Phase II, and Extended Care?

**A:** The scope of perianesthesia nursing practice is discussed in the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses, 2023-2024 Perianesthesia nursing standards: Practice recommendations and interpretive statements.<sup>1</sup>

Perianesthesia practice phases refer to a patient's physiological state based on many factors such as baseline health status, type of anesthesia, the surgical procedure performed, and the patient's response to interventions. Therefore, perianesthesia practice phases refer to the level of nursing care required and not to a physical location.<sup>1</sup>

There are five phases of perianesthesia nursing practice:

- Preanesthesia Phase:
  - Preadmission
    - The nursing roles in this phase focus on physical, psychological, sociocultural, and spiritual preparation for the experience. Interview and assessment techniques are used to identify potential or actual problems. Education, discharge planning, and interventions are initiated to optimize positive outcomes.
  - Day of Surgery/Procedure
    - The nursing roles in this phase focus on validating existing information, eliciting additional or new information, reinforcing preoperative teaching, reviewing discharge instructions, and providing nursing care to complete preparation for the experience.
- Postanesthesia Phase
  - Phase I
    - The nursing roles in this phase focus on providing postanesthesia nursing care in the immediate postanesthesia period, transitioning to phase II, the inpatient setting, or to an intensive care setting for continued care. Basic life-sustaining needs are of the highest priority. *Constant vigilance is required during this phase.*<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Phase II
    - The nursing roles in this phase focus on preparation for care in the home or in an extended care environment.

- Extended Care
  - The nursing roles in this phase focus on providing care when extended observation/intervention after discharge from Phase I or Phase II is required.

**References:**

1. American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses. 2023-2024 perianesthesia nursing standards, practice recommendations and interpretive statements. Cherry Hill, NJ; ASPAN.
2. Laidlaw v Lions Gate Hospital, 1969 CanLII 704 BC SC. Available at <http://canlii.ca/t/gc72p>.

*This FAQ was reviewed and updated November 2024.*