Clinical Practice Frequently Asked Question

Q: Is it okay to send a nurse into the OR to recover a patient? The second person to assist is a runner who can get items for the patient.

A: Staffing requirements

Recovering a patient in the OR is acceptable if the second person assisting is an RN, CRNA, or MD. This individual must be close enough to assist the recovering nurse promptly and hear any call for help.

Equipment and supplies

Before proceeding, confirm that items normally available in the PACU are readily accessible in the OR, including:

- urinary assistance devices
- medication-dispensing equipment
- ice bags
- other supplies the patient may need during recovery

Transfer plan

The patient may then be transferred to the PACU to complete recovery or moved directly to their inpatient unit bed, as appropriate.

Phase 1 recovery refers to a level of care rather than a specific physical location.