



# ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

## Clinical Practice: Frequently Asked Question

### **Q: What is ASPAN's standard for vital sign frequency in Phase I and Phase II and Extended Care?**

**A:** The frequency of adult vital sign assessment is facility specific. Practices vary across the country with frequency of vital signs ranging from every five to every fifteen minutes during phase I and every thirty to sixty minutes during phase II.

- Expert opinion recommends that the frequency of vital sign assessment is
  - every fifteen minutes during phase I as clinical condition requires
  - occurs at a minimum on arrival and discharge from phase II, and as clinical condition requires
- For postoperative pediatric assessment, an initial blood pressure is always obtained on admission to phase I.

ASPAN encourages organizations to set policies and define practices which identify quality staffing patterns for the care of surgical patients. Patient safety is a priority for PACU nurses in caring for postoperative patients.

### **References**

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