

2016

Clinical Exemplar

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P-ATIENT A-DVOCACY AND C-ARE IS U-TMOST

The main goal in a PACU is to provide the best care to postoperative patients and to facilitate their safe transfer to the next level of care. The transition from my ICU job to a postanesthesia care unit is the best thing that ever happened in my career. Getting close to retirement, I am grateful to be part of a very cohesive team. Colleagues in this unit include experienced nurses from Intensive Care, Emergency Room, Cardiac Cath and the EP Lab. I would like to think that this is the best place to acquire a variety of clinical experiences and knowledge and to develop multiple skills to become confident as a nurse.

PACU nurses can adapt to various clinical situations. When a simple procedure becomes complicated during postoperative care, the PACU nurses can care for the patient with confidence and empathy. They can accurately assess the clinical status and care of the patient during a crisis situation. Camaraderie with the anesthesia staff and surgeons is common.

PACU nurses are the embodiment of tough love, as several surgeons would say. Vigilance and empathy are two important characteristics that the nurses must possess. Hence, the mnemonic: **Patient Advocacy and Care is Utmost (the first letters of each word stand for PACU). This is our motto!**

