

THE Stethoscoop

February 17, 2025

UPMC Altoona's Student Nurse Newsletter



The SCOOP on units: Operating Room

This department of the hospital consists of 12 operating rooms (OR) and one dedicated cysto room for urology procedures. It averages 750 cases per month. The hospital being a Level III trauma center, the OR is staffed 24/7.

Surgical care is provided for the following service lines: general surgery, orthopaedics, neurosurgery, plastic and reconstructive, gynecology, ENT, vascular, cardiac, podiatry, urology, oral and maxillofacial, trauma, and robotics.



"We welcome nursing students for internships as well as shadowing experiences. We hire graduate nurses with an orientation period of six months—the longest of any nursing orientation. RNs orienting to the OR receive education in circulating, scrubbing, and assisting the surgeon, per the Association of Operating Room Nurses recommendations."

— Dee Dee Murray, Unit Director

Student Nurse Week Scholarship

As part of our Student Nurse Week celebration, UPMC Altoona Foundation awarded a \$500 scholarship to **Mayah Marasco**.

Mayah is enrolled in the BSN program at Penn State Altoona and is scheduled to graduate in May 2026. While attending school, she is employed as a patient care technician at UPMC Altoona.

All students were invited to apply and submit a letter of recommendation from a nursing instructor. The recommendation from her instructor described Mayah as respectful, dependable, dedicated, and genuinely kind.

In addition to working at UPMC Altoona, Mayah also works for her family business. She is involved in the Student Nurses Association of PA and remains active in community service projects and campus events.

Congratulations Mayah! Keep up the good work!



Pictured are (left to right) Tim Balconi, president, UPMC Altoona Foundation; Mayah Marasco, student, Penn State Altoona, PCT, MPCU, and Kitty Zelnosky, CNO, VP of Patient Care Services, West Central Region.



Medical Device Supply Collection

UPMC has selected Medline ReNewal to manage reprocessing efforts across all facilities.

Note the recent change in the process of collecting medical devices for repurposing, including:

- Pulse oximetry
- SCDs
- Tourniquets
- Air transfer mattress

Many inpatient units have these devices. **Please place devices no longer in use in the bins, NOT in the trash.**

Employment Opportunities



STUDENT NURSE INTERNSHIPS
UPMC Altoona Student Nurse Internship



NURSING STUDENTS
<https://careers.upmc.com/nursing>



GRADUATE NURSES
UPMC Altoona GN Opportunities

Blood Administration Process Update



Labs

A type and screen within 72 hours is required



Consent

Consent is valid for 90 days



Documentation Requirements

Baseline blood pressure, heart rate, temperature, respirations



Documentation Frequency

- Within 30 minutes prior to infusion start
- 15 to 30 minutes after start
- Within 30 minutes after infusion completion



Document patient education on signs and symptoms of blood transfusion reaction



Isolation Precautions Guidelines

Contact-Based Precautions

Isolation Type	Contact	Contact + Enteric
Signage		
Disease Examples	• CRO/CRE • RSV • Acinetobacter • Parainfluenza	• Metapneumovirus • Adenovirus • Candida auris • All RV-CP associated conditions
Hand Hygiene	Soap & Water or Hand Sanitizer	Soap & Water ONLY
Required PPE	Gown Gloves	Gown Gloves
Transport of Patient	Limit transport of the patient to essential purposes only. Notify the area receiving the patient of the precautions.	

Banner bar isolation codes include: **Contact + RV-CP** (Respiratory Virus – Contact Precautions), other contact-specific conditions

Airborne-Based Precautions

Required monitor negative air pressure room - keep door closed

Isolation Type	Airborne	Airborne + Contact	Airborne + Contact/Enteric
Signage			
Disease Examples	• Tuberculosis (suspected or confirmed; pulmonary or laryngeal TB) • Measles • COVID-19	• Multiple conditions requiring Airborne/contact isolation, such as COVID-19 and CRE • Varicella-zoster (Herpes zoster, shingles; disseminated disease) • Monkeypox • MERS-CoV	• Multiple conditions requiring Airborne/contact isolation, such as TB and C. diff or COVID-19 and C. diff
Hand Hygiene	Soap & Water or Hand Sanitizer	Soap & Water or Hand Sanitizer	Soap & Water ONLY
Required PPE	N95 or PAPR	N95 or PAPR Gown Gloves	N95 or PAPR Gown Gloves
Transport of Patient	Limit transport of the patient to essential purposes only. Notify the area receiving the patient of the precautions. Non-ventilated patients are to wear a (regular/procedure/surgical) mask prior to leaving the room.		

Banner bar isolation codes include: **Airborne, Airborne/Contact + airborne-specific conditions**

Droplet-Based Precautions

Isolation Type	Droplet	Droplet + Contact	Droplet + Contact/Enteric
Signage			
Disease Examples	• Influenza • Rhinovirus • COVID-19 PUI • All RV-DP associated conditions	• Multiple conditions requiring droplet and contact isolation, such as CRO + Influenza • Pneumonia • Coronavirus • Respiratory Viral Panel	• Multiple conditions requiring droplet/contact isolation AND soap and water • Influenza and C. diff
Hand Hygiene	Soap & Water or Hand Sanitizer	Soap & Water or Hand Sanitizer	Soap & Water ONLY
Required PPE	Surgical mask	Surgical mask Gown Gloves	Surgical mask Gown Gloves
Transport of Patient	Limit transport of the patient to essential purposes only. Notify the area receiving the patient of the precautions. Non-ventilated patients are to wear a (regular/procedure/surgical) mask prior to leaving the room.		

Banner bar isolation codes include: **Droplet, Droplet/Contact + RV-DP** (Respiratory Virus – Droplet Precautions), other droplet-specific conditions

Call Infection Prevention at **814-889-2197** with any questions or concerns. Notify Infection Prevention if a patient's banner bar code = "Emerging Pathogen, contact IP."

Please reference the Infonet policy: HS-IC0609, "Transmission-Based Isolation and Standard Precautions Policy" for condition-specific isolation guidance.