

THE Stethoscoop

March 17, 2025

UPMC Altoona's Student Nurse Newsletter



The SCOOP on units: Birthing Center

UPMC Magee Women's Birthing Center is a 22-bed multidisciplinary unit with its own triage and operating rooms.

Patients labor, give birth, recover and have their postpartum stay in the same unit, permitting continuity of care throughout their hospital stay and promoting skin-to-skin contact, breastfeeding, delayed bathing, and infant rooming-in.

The unit's four-bed triage area allows maternal monitoring of baby and evaluation of emergent obstetrical situations and concerns.

Nurses are trained in labor and delivery, how to circulate in the OR for cesarean sections, care of the infant and mother postpartum, triaging patients, and neonatal resuscitation after delivery. Neonates of 35 weeks and greater may need to transition in the eight-bed special care nursery.



"If you like fast-paced experiences, LDRP is like an emergency department. You need to be prepared and ready for any kind of obstetrical or neonatal emergency situation. We also have a strong focus on education for family units. In the short time they are on our unit, we will prepare them to care for themselves and their newborns. It is very rewarding to help someone safely deliver their infant and interact with families."

— Pamela O'Donnell, MSN, RN-BC, C-EFM
Programmatic nurse specialist

Student DAISY Award®

UPMC Altoona has been honoring deserving nurses with DAISY Awards® since 2021 and has added the student nurse DAISY award.

Two student awards were presented in the fall semester and two will be presented in the spring.

Any nursing student completing clinical hours at UPMC Altoona is eligible.



Scan the QR code or click the [web link](#) to nominate a student nurse

by sharing a specific story demonstrating extraordinary nursing care.

More details about DAISY award criteria are outlined on the nomination form. **Deadline for spring semester nominations is March 31.**



Most student friendly unit contest

As part of our Nurses Week celebration (May 5-11) we invite you to vote for the UPMC Altoona unit you feel is the most welcoming to nursing students.



Please SCAN the QR code or click [web link](#) to cast your vote.

Votes will be due no later than May 8.



Instructions for C. diff care

Here are some key points to remember when caring for a C. diff patient:

- Follow the best practice of washing hands with soap and water
- Use BLEACH when wiping down all equipment
- Use proper isolation signage
- Educate your patient and their family to prevent the spread



Be aware of “present on admission” time frame (POA). This is a patient arriving with C. diff. For a specimen collection ordered at admission it is important to collect prior to the second midnight (inpatient location).



Example:

- Patient admitted 01/02/25 at 2330
- First midnight = 01/03/25 at 0000
- Second midnight = 01/04/25 at 0000

Timely collection of the specimen is essential!

Criteria for C. diff Testing

1. Patient has 3 or more unexplained/unformed stools within 24 hrs. not due to laxatives, enemas, bowel prep, or tube feedings
2. At least one of the following:
 - WBC greater than 10k within 24 hrs. of unformed stools
 - Abdominal tenderness, cramping, or distention
 - Fever > 38 degrees C
 - Received antibiotics within 60 days
 - Recent chemotherapy/immunosuppression
 - History of C. diff infection

C. diff Testing and Isolation Precautions

On Admission	During Hospital Stay	At Discharge
• Test patient promptly • Educate patient, family, and visitors on hand hygiene and C. diff disease • Initiate contact enteric precautions. Order will be prompted by test order.	• Do not send solid stool specimens • Consider if diarrhea is due to laxative use or tube feeds • Ask physician to discontinue order when not appropriate • Do not repeat a positive test during admission • Maintain contact precautions and handwashing with soap and water for positive patients	• Provide discharge education • Thoroughly clean all patient equipment with bleach or sporicidal • UV light disinfection may be used in addition to thorough cleaning

EMPLOYMENT Opportunities



STUDENT NURSE INTERNSHIPS
UPMC Altoona Student Nurse Internship



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



GRADUATE NURSES
UPMC Altoona GN Opportunities

