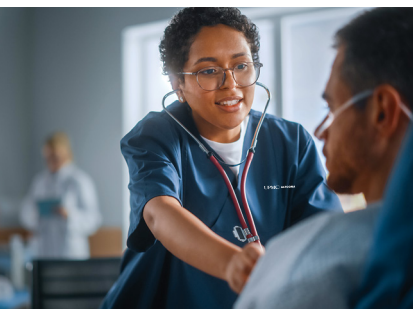


THE Stethoscoop

October 6, 2025

UPMC Altoona's Student Nurse Newsletter



The SCOOP on units: Medical Progressive Care (MPCU)

Medical Progressive Care Unit is a medical stepdown unit, a fast-paced, 45-bed medical progressive cardiopulmonary telemetry floor.

Staff treat patients with heart failure, myocardial infarction, sepsis, acute respiratory illness requiring CPAP/BiPAP or high-flow oxygenation, as well as those who are multisystem-compromised.

MPCU provides experience with complex cardiac rhythms and post-pacemaker placement, ablation, and cardiac catheterizations, to name a few, and overall offers a unique and rewarding clinical experience.



"It is the perfect place to begin a nursing career. We pride ourselves on helping new nurses build a strong foundation in critical thinking, time management, and multitasking, all while cultivating friendly and cohesive teamwork."

"In spring 2025, we were honored to be recognized as the most student-friendly unit. I believe this reflects our commitment to mentoring and growth. As the unit director,

I'm proud to lead such a dedicated team and to support our staff throughout their nursing journey."

"The most rewarding part of my role is hearing patients speak so highly of our nurses and watching our student nurse PCTs grow into confident graduate nurses right here on our unit."

—Rachel Schraff, RN

EPIC goes live

UPMC Altoona has moved ahead with the transition from Cerner to EPIC, which went live at the end of September. EPIC is integrated and more streamlined, and makes delivering patient care more efficient and charting easier.



EPIC is more interactive, more modern and mainstream-looking, and allows for an organic flow when progressing through patient charting. Ideally, the user-friendly nature of EPIC will benefit new hires, interns, students, and licensed employees.

UPMC Altoona Plain Language Descriptions

The following chart is a handy reference for UPMC Altoona Plain Language Descriptions for **FACILITY ALERTS**. Medical event alerts will appear in the November issue of *Stethoscoop*.

Plain Language Event Type	Description
Decontamination	A process is underway to safely remove hazardous substances from individuals or equipment following exposure to chemicals, radiation, or biological agents.
Emergency Operations Plan Activation	The hospital's emergency response plan has been activated due to a significant event. Staff should follow their designated roles and responsibilities.
Evacuation/Relocation	People are being moved from one area of the facility to another—or out of the building entirely—for safety reasons. Follow directions and assist as needed.
Fire Alarm	A fire has been detected, or a fire alarm has been triggered. Follow your department's fire response procedures and be prepared to evacuate if necessary.
Hazardous Materials Spill/Release	A chemical, biological, or radiological substance has been accidentally released. Stay clear of the area and follow instructions from safety personnel.
Mass Casualty Incident	An event involving a large number of injured people is impacting or expected to impact the facility. Additional resources may be needed to manage patient care.
Severe Weather Event Activation	A significant weather threat such as a tornado, flood, snowstorm, or extreme temperatures is expected or occurring. Preparedness actions are being implemented.
Technology Interruption	A critical technology system—such as the electronic medical record or internal communications—has stopped working. Backup procedures should be followed.
Utility Interruption	A disruption in essential services (such as electricity, water, heating, or cooling) is occurring. Staff should follow contingency procedures until service is restored.

EMPLOYMENT Opportunities



NURSING STUDENTS

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



GRADUATE NURSES

UPMC Altoona GN Opportunities