

## Recovery Ward RN/LPN Role Description

Nurses in the recovery room (RR) are responsible for direct patient care in two different areas, the PACU for immediate post op recovery and the main ward. Nurses will be divided up between three different shifts 8 AM- 4 PM, 4 PM-12 AM and 12 AM-8 AM. The schedule will be arranged by the HTI team leader or the RN designated as the head nurse. Typically two nurses are scheduled for the PACU. There are three-four nurses in the ward during the two early shifts, one-two on the men's side, and one-two on the women's side.

Two nurses are typically scheduled for the midnight shift.

Responsibilities include:

- Provide pain medication and antibiotics as ordered for patients recovering from surgery as commensurate with your training.
- Make sure patients recovering post-op also take any other prescribed medications (blood pressure, diabetes, etc.). This is only required of the USA team members after a patient has left the OR, pre-op the Guatemalan nurses will make certain that all medications are taken.
- Check vital signs as needed per surgeon recommendations.
- Watch IV bottles to regulate flow, change bottles and to D/C IV when no longer necessary.
- Record output from foley catheter and JP drains and D/C them when no longer necessary.
- Monitor surgical incisions and change dressings as needed.
- Work with non-medical team members assigned as caregivers as well as with Guatemalan nurses and auxiliary nursing staff.
- Document use of controlled substance Demerol as explained during the nurse orientation meeting.
- Chart medications given, vital signs and ins/outs as well as document any notes about patient progression on the Nurse Notes page in patient chart.
- It is recommended that you bring your own stethoscope.