

HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL

MEDICAL SERVICE LINE

Huntsville Hospital's Medical Service Line includes the following inpatient nursing units:

RESPIRATORY CARE UNIT (RCU)

The Respiratory Care Unit is a progressive care step-down unit with 38 private rooms that specializes in caring for acute and chronic pulmonary patients, including those requiring long-term mechanical ventilation, continuous BiPap and other oxygen delivery devices, and tracheostomy and chest tubes. RCU also serves as a step-down unit for the hospital's intensive care units. This leads to a variety of patient types on the unit, exposing nurses to multiple different disease processes with opportunities to utilize many clinical skills. RCU has a nurse-to-patient ratio of 1:3-4.

ACUTE MEDICAL CARE UNITS I & II

Acute Medical Care Units I & II provide nurses with a variety of experience caring for patients with septicemia, wounds, sickle cell disease, hypertension, diabetes, wound-vacs, central venous lines, urinary catheters, tube feedings, etc. Working on these units helps nurses develop many technical skills while improving their critical thinking. Both units have a positive work environment and diverse staff population. Acute Medical Care Units I & II have a nurse-to-patient ratio of 1:4 on day shift and 1:5 on night shift.

ONCOLOGY

An inpatient unit with 38 beds, Oncology offers a progressive education program for learning to administer chemotherapy. The unit empowers RNs to expand their oncology knowledge base and become an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN). Oncology's mission is to provide highly-skilled care delivered with compassion and respect that positively impacts patients and their loved ones. The unit has a nurse-to-patient ratio of 1:3-4.

ACUTE MEDICAL CARE UNIT III

Acute Medical Care Unit III is a fast-paced, 38-bed Medical-Surgical/Nephrology Unit that prides itself on caring for a wide variety of medical conditions and comorbidities, including but not limited to management of Congestive Heart Failure, COPD, septicemia, GI bleeds and pneumonia. This allows nursing staff to sharpen their critical thinking and time management skills. The unit also has an increased focus on renal patients, from acute kidney injury to end-stage renal disease on hemodialysis. In addition, nurses are specially trained in performing manual exchanges on peritoneal dialysis patients. The unit offers an exciting work environment, with a focus on quality care utilizing a team approach. Acute Medical Care III has a nurse-to-patient ratio of 1:4 (day shift) and 1:5 (night shift).

MEDICAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (MICU)

The Medical Intensive Care Unit, Huntsville Hospital's largest adult ICU with 26 beds, cares for a variety of acute medical conditions accompanied by many different comorbidities. The vast majority of patients suffer from respiratory failure, renal failure, overdose, diabetic ketoacidosis, substance withdrawal, GI bleeds, multi-organ failure and/or sepsis, with many receiving dialysis daily, either HD or continuous. The MICU, which occasionally serves post-surgical or stroke patients, also accompanies patients to a variety of procedures in Interventional Radiology, Endoscopy and at the bedside. Staff often travel for radiology, MRI and ultrasound testing. Beyond traveling to ordered tests and procedures, a MICU nurse's daily routine includes blood transfusions, ventilator management, titration of medications/drips and wound management. The MICU nurse-to-patient ratio averages 1:2.



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