Information on visiting in the 
Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)

Your family member/friend will be given medication to prevent him/her from feeling pain during the surgery. It will also make them sleep and not be aware of anything until he/she wakes up after the operation is over.

What is the PACU?

PACU is the post anesthesia care unit. This is the room where your loved one will be brought after their surgery. They will stay in the PACU to recover from anesthesia. During the time he/she is in PACU the patient will be sleepy, may have pain or nausea. The priority for nursing staff is comfort and safety of your family member. It is important we maintain a quiet, calm environment.

What is general anesthesia?

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What are the visiting policies in PACU?

PACU is a busy place; patients are coming and leaving the PACU continuously. We ask that you do not walk the corridors of E7 and D8 area. The operating room is situated close to the PACU. Keeping traffic to a minimum will reduce noise as well as the risk of infection for all patients as they recover from their surgery.

No visiting is permitted in PACU.

When your family/friend arrives in PACU, you will receive a phone call in the family waiting room (D10-117) or on your cell phone letting you know that your family/friend is out of surgery. The PACU staff realize that you may feel anxious and we will try to answer your questions and concerns. We ask for your understanding and patience as we care for your love one. Our priority is safety and privacy for all patients while he/she wakes up from surgery. No visiting allowed in the PACU.
The length of stay in PACU is 2-3 hours. Please keep in mind every person’s response time for waking up will depend on the type of anesthesia they were given and the length of surgery. Before the patient leaves the PACU they must have:

• Stable blood pressure and heart rate

• Minimal nausea

• Post-surgical pain under control

Pain Intensity Scale

No pain Pain as bad as you can imagine

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10