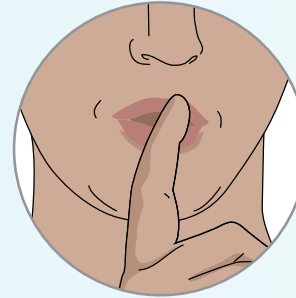


Information on visiting in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit



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?

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 are the visiting policies in PACU?

PACU is a busy place; patients are coming and leaving the PACU continuously. **We ask you do not walk the corridors of S5.** 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 (S 6.28) 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.



This document was developed by Ersilia Guarascio (B.Sc.N.Pre-op Center RVH), Liette Langlois (ANM PACU RVH), the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) Preoperative Centre, and PACU staff.

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This material is also available on the MUHC Health Education Collection
<http://infotheque.muhc.ca/>
and MUHC Patient Education Office
www.muhcpatienteducation.ca



Help support the MUHC Patient Education Office!
Donations make a huge difference. Call the Cedar's Cancer Institute to donate: 514-934-1934, ext. 71619.



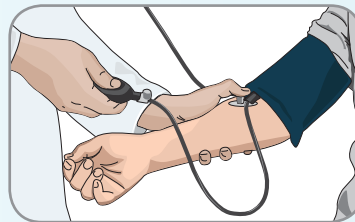
IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ

Information provided by this booklet is for educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice or instruction of a professional healthcare practitioner, or to substitute medical care. Contact a qualified healthcare practitioner if you have any questions concerning your care.

How long will my family/friend stay in 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:

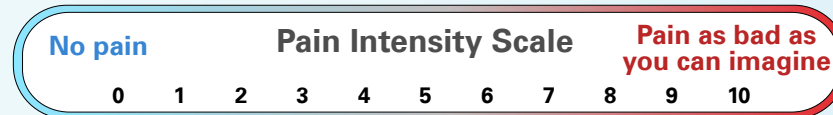
- Stable blood pressure and heart rate



- Minimal nausea



- Post-surgical pain under control



If my family/friend is an overnight stay in PACU, does that mean I cannot see him /her until he is transferred to the surgical floor on the following day?

If your loved one stays in PACU for overnight monitoring, we understand that you will want to see him/her. Once the activity in the PACU decreases for the day, we will allow you to visit your loved one. We ask you to limit visit to 1 person at a time for a maximum of 5 minutes as other patients are also recovering from surgery and require quiet and privacy.



What happens if my loved one is being discharged home from PACU?

When your loved one is ready to go home, we will contact you to come to PACU and receive all the discharge information concerning your loved one. Your family/friend will then be escorted by transport services in a wheelchair to the appropriate exit.

