Job Title: Cardiac Cath Lab Registered Nurse  
Supervised by: Cardiac Cath Lab Nurse Manager  
Prepared by: __________________________________  
Approved by: ___________________________  
Date: ________________________________________  
Date: _________________________________

**Job Summary:** Provides direct patient care to pediatric through geriatric patient populations. Addresses the psychosocial, physical and general aspects of care related to the surgical environment. Communicates with the physician continuously and as needed about patient condition. Assists with the maintenance of equipment and inventory. Assesses procedure room for equipment functioning and readiness. Obtains supplies for individual cases and ensures all appropriate needs of the Cardiac Cath Lab team are met. Monitors, positions and assists patient during procedure. Participates in performance improvement and continuous quality improvement (CQI) activities.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

3 = Exceeds Performance  
2 = Expected Performance  
1 = Needs Improvement

**Demonstrates Competency in the Following Areas:**

- Responsible for admitting, recovering and discharging of patients from the Cardiac Cath Lab. Provides follow-up.  
  3 2 1
- Provides direct patient care, evaluates outcomes, consults with other healthcare team members as required and adjusts nursing care processes as indicated to ensure optimal patient care.  
  3 2 1
- Ability to perform a head-to-toe assessment on all patients and reassessments as per policy. This includes neonate, pediatric, adolescent and geriatric patients and the general patient population. This includes post-procedure assessments.  
  3 2 1
- Ability to adequately assess and reassess pain. Utilizes appropriate pain management techniques. Educates the patient and family regarding pain management.  
  3 2 1
- Performs all aspects of patient care in an environment that optimizes patient safety and reduces the likelihood of medical/health care errors.  
  3 2 1
- Supports and maintains a culture of safety and quality.  
  3 2 1
- Approaches patient in a kind, gentle manner.  
  3 2 1
- Demonstrates the ability to handle emergency situations during high-risk procedures.  
  3 2 1
- Gives patient explanations and verbal reassurances consistently.  
  3 2 1
- Adapts nursing procedure to meet the needs for treatment of individual neonate, pediatric, adolescent, adult and geriatric patients.  
  3 2 1
- Identifies the patient verbally and by the patient’s ID wristband.  
  3 2 1
- Identifies physical symptoms and changes and takes appropriate action in a timely manner.  
  3 2 1
- Demonstrates the ability to assess cardiorespiratory systems for changes in neonate to geriatric patients and is able to treat appropriately.  
  3 2 1
- Demonstrates knowledge of the principles of growth and development over the life span and the skills necessary to provide age appropriate care to the patient population served. Able to interpret data about the patient’s status in order to identify each patient’s age specific needs and provide care needed by the patient group.  
  3 2 1
POLICY:
To prevent and control contamination and prevent the spread of infection within the Cardiac Cath Lab.

PROCEDURE:

- Cardiac Cath Lab staff are responsible to observe all infection prevention and control measures.

- All staff shall comply with pre-employment and annual health requirements.

- Staff with eye, skin, respiratory, gastrointestinal or other active infections shall not work in the Cardiac Cath Lab.

- Dress code for restricted areas shall be followed by all staff (see appropriate policy).

- Strict handwashing techniques shall be followed.

- Strict aseptic techniques shall be observed, including the use of a cap, mask, eye protection, sterile gown and sterile gloves, for the insertion of catheters or for guidewire exchange.

- Persons not directly involved in the care of Cardiac Cath Lab patients shall not be permitted to enter the area.

- Standard Precautions shall be used for all patients:
  - Gloves are to be worn when having contact with patient, blood or body fluids.
  - All disposable equipment is to be discarded, after each patient use.
  - Cover gowns will be worn, if clothing may be soiled with blood or body fluids.
  - All surfaces and non-disposable equipment are to be cleaned with facility-approved germicide.
  - All sharps and needles are to be disposed of in a sharps container, located in the same area.
POLICY:

• The plan for nursing care prescribes nursing actions to achieve the goals.

• The plan for nursing care in the intraoperative setting reflects the preoperative assessment, priorities for nursing action and a logical sequence of nursing activity to attain stated goals, which are individualized to the patient’s needs.

PROCEDURE:

• Nursing actions in the intraoperative setting include the following:
  • Patient identification
  • Invasive procedure/surgical site identification
  • Informed consent verification
  • Verification of diagnostic test results in the patient’s medical record
  • Outcome evaluation
  • Patient positioning according to physiological principles
  • Skin assessment and reassessment
  • Patient education
  • Adherence to the principles of asepsis
  • Assurance of appropriate and properly functioning equipment and supplies
  • Provision of comfort measures and supportive care to the patient, including emotional and spiritual support, as necessary
  • Environmental monitoring and safety
  • Physiological and psychological monitoring of the patient, including continued assessment of patient status
PURPOSE:
Radiofrequency ablation is done to destroy an accessory pathway or bypass tract to conduction through the heart.

PROCEDURE:
- Set-up table as for electrophysiology study. Add 6F or 7F sheath for coronary sinus catheter. Ask physician.
- Ascertain informed consent has been signed.
- Place defibrillation pads on patient and attach to defibrillator. Place cautery ground pad on patient’s back at the level of heart. Attach to ground cable of ablation device.
- Clean all skin electrode areas with alcohol. Place electrodes on patient for external EKG.
- Start oxygen at 2L per minute via nasal cannula. Attach pulse oximeter and automatic blood pressure cuff. Set the automatic blood pressure for every 15 minutes.
- Hang IV of normal saline for fluid hydration during procedure and for administration of medications.
- Prep groins and subclavian/internal jugular area and/or brachial area (per physician preference).
- The Scrub Technician will:
  - Prep appropriate areas with Betadine. Allow Betadine to dry completely. Drape patient.
  - Assist the physician with placement of sheaths and catheters.
- The Cardiac Cath Lab RN will:
  - Attach stimulator and catheter cable to EP amp per manufacturer’s instructions.
  - Reassure the patient. Give sedation as directed by the physician.
POLICY:

__________________ Facility’s Cardiac Cath Lab shall document all pertinent information for
each procedure on the appropriate forms in the patient’s medical record.

PROCEDURE:

• All preprocedure information needed must be on the patient’s medical record prior to
his/her admission to the Cardiac Cath Lab. This includes, but is not limited to:

  • Face sheet with patient information and identification
  • A signed, informed consent for the procedure
  • History and physical
  • Diagnostic and therapeutic orders
  • Preprocedure anesthesia evaluation, when an anesthesiologist is required
  • Appropriate screening test, based on the needs of the patient, shall be
    accomplished and recorded within 72 hours prior to the procedure
  • Preprocedure checklist completed by nurse
  • Denial of ingested food after midnight or 2400 hours
  • Nursing assessment notes which include:
    ■ Admission vital signs
    ■ Height and weight
    ■ Clinical observation and the results of treatments
    ■ Listing of current medications, herbal medications/supplements
    ■ Allergies
    ■ Nursing Discharge Plan