

Development of Clinical Practice Guidelines: Care of the Patient Following Anesthesia (Poster)

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Development of Clinical Practice Guidelines: Care of the Patient Following Anesthesia

Perioperative Services

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The written standards of care for patients in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) in a Magnet® hospital were in need of amendment. Inconsistencies in practice among PACU RNs had also been noted.

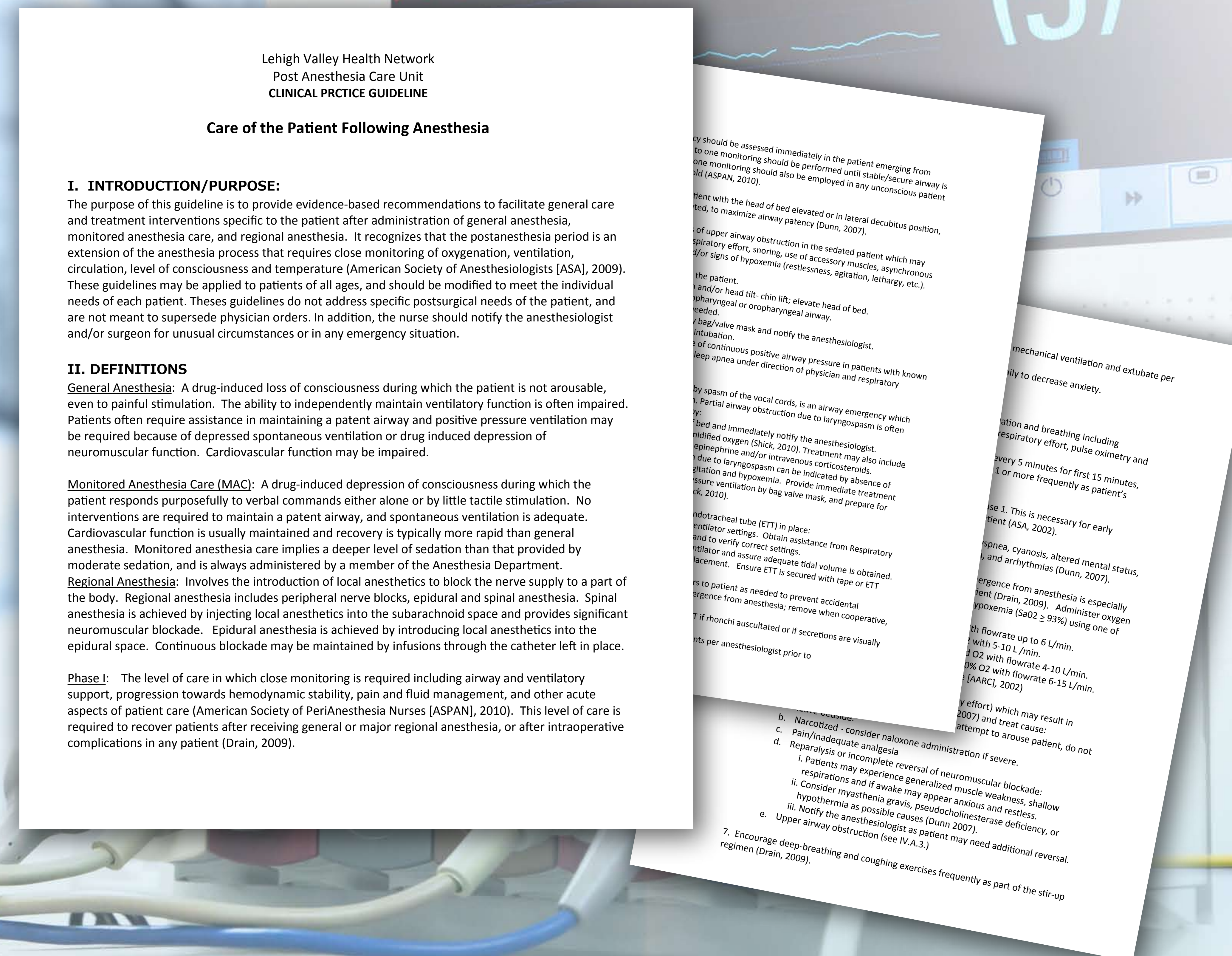
PURPOSE:

- To develop a more comprehensive standard of care for post anesthetic patients.

METHODOLOGY:

- An interdisciplinary team was formed consisting of the unit based educator, anesthesia providers, and clinical experts.
- Current institutional written practice standards were reviewed. A literature search was completed with assistance from the library services staff.
- Current nursing literature, ASPAN Standards, and practice guidelines from the American Society of Anesthesiologists were incorporated and cited.
- In accordance to the institution's approval process, a review by key stakeholders and a senior risk manager was completed.
- The compiled clinical practice guidelines utilize a systems approach and include assessment, common complications, and practice recommendations.

Clinical Practice Guidelines



IMPLEMENTATION:

- Review of the clinical practice guidelines by current staff.
- Utilize as an educational tool for new PACU RNs.
- Use as an electronically accessed reference at the bedside.



OUTCOMES:

- By standardizing practice, the comprehensive clinical practice guidelines, “Care of the Patient Following Anesthesia”, serve to promote quality and safety by providing evidence-based recommendations for general patient care and treatment interventions after general anesthesia, monitored anesthesia care, and regional anesthesia.
- Future education is being developed network-wide utilizing these guidelines to promote necessary knowledge for nursing staff beyond the PACU who care for post anesthetic patients.

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