

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

MONITOR TECH'S MANUAL
(Scope)

TITLE: Ongoing Monitoring of Telemetry Patients

PURPOSE: To outline the process for continuous monitoring of patients on telemetry.

SUPPORTIVE DATA:

- Monitor Techs (MT) are required to have full visualization of all patient's telemetry activity.
- When needed, a qualified staff member, certified in Basic Arrhythmia interpretation can watch the telemetry activity of the patients. Such a staff member must have been oriented to the charting elements that are required for the shift and how to notify nursing personnel for emergent changes.
- All activity is monitored in Lead II unless there is interference and/or components of rhythm parameters are more easily seen in another lead.
- Document lead in interpretation if other than lead II is used.

CONTENT: PROCEDURE

1. Verbal handoff communication is provided at the change of shift or change in personnel monitoring the telemetry activity. The handoff communication includes number of patients being monitored, normal activity of each patient, any abnormal activity during the last 24 hours, number of telemetry units available, if the telemetry tech is aware of any procedures or changes in patient status. At that time, alarms status should be cleared.
2. All alarms for each patient will be evaluated at the beginning of the shift and adjusted if necessary to individualize changes in patient's status. Alarm volume will also be checked at the beginning of the shift.
3. A rhythm strip interpretation for each monitored patient is completed at the beginning of every 12-hour shift and documented as per MT Policy #7. Additional review and documentation is completed at 0400 and 1600.
4. The monitor tech is notified when any patient on telemetry is leaving their assigned unit. The designated unit or transporter of the patient is responsible for informing the telemetry monitor of where the patient will be located, if the telemetry will be removed during the procedure and when the patient returns to the floor at the time of the activity.
5. The monitor tech is responsible for noting when the telemetry is being removed and when it is reapplied. Interpret and document a new strip post any procedure or testing where the patient was off telemetry during the procedure.
6. Notification of changes in rhythm, rate or alarms to RN.
 - The MT notifies the patient's primary nurse or charge nurse using vocera
 - In addition to communicating changes, the MT prints and records interpretations and follows routine process.
 - Communicates interruption of telemetry (Leads off message) and documents that communication via a notification form.

7. Refer to Policy 8620.229b Cardiac/Telemetry Monitoring Protocol
8. Chain of command
 - In the event when alarms are not addressed and or the "leads off" message is on for more than 5 minutes after initial notification to the primary nurse/charge nurse a second call will be placed to the charge nurse.
 - If there is no response/ patient's rhythm is visible to MT 5 minutes after second call is placed, the MT is to notify the Administrative Coordinator for the shift.
 - At any time the patient is off telemetry monitoring for more than 15 minutes a rhythm interpretation and documentation of interpretation is required.