

Section: Division of Nursing

PROCEDURE

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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

MONITOR TECH'S MANUAL
(Scope)

TITLE: TRIAGE OF TELEMETRY TRANSMITTERS

PURPOSE: To outline the procedure to discontinue monitoring of stable telemetry patients when there is limited access to telemetry transmitters for other patients.

SUPPORTIVE DATA:

1. Triage can be initiated by a Monitor Tech, Charge Nurse in the units where telemetry is monitored, Administrative Coordinator and/or attending physician/ Critical Care Medical Director.
2. Triage is an ongoing process that occurs during shift handoff between nurses and daily discussion with physicians during his/her rounds.
3. Triage will occur in the event when 18 telemetry transmitters are in use on the Medical/Surgical units.

CONTENT: PROCEDURE

1. Triage is completed daily by primary nurse during handoff. The nurse discusses the need for patient to be on telemetry.
2. During physician daily rounds, telemetry utilization is discussed.
3. When 18 telemetry transmitters are in use on the Medical/Surgical units and there are no orders for discontinuation, the Monitor tech working 1900-0730 will provide a list of potential patients eligible for discontinuation to Med-Surg. Every Med-Surg patient monitored for 48 hours or longer, regardless of rhythm, rate, ectopy are to be placed on the list.
4. The list is faxed to the unit where the patients are housed.
5. Med-surg nursing staff will discuss telemetry renewal or discontinuation with patient's physician.
6. Charge nurse or patient's primary nurse will advise telemetry tech of orders received, either for continuation of telemetry or discontinuation.