

Section: Division of Nursing

PROCEDURE

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Issue Date: December 9, 1992
Reviewed Date: March 15, 2005
Revised Date: 7/2010, 10/2011

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

MONITOR TECH'S MANUAL
(Scope)

TITLE: PHYSICIAN NOTIFICATION OF RHYTHM CHANGES

PURPOSE: To outline the procedure to communicate significant changes in patient's cardiac rate and rhythm.

EQUIPMENT LIST:

- 1. Telemetry Transmitter
- 2. Central Station

CONTENT:

PROCEDURE STEPS

KEY POINTS

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Observe patient's rate and rhythm via Central station. 2. Obtain rhythm strips detailing alterations in cardiac rate and rhythm. 3. Interpretation of rhythm strip performed and recorded. 4. Monitor Tech informs RN of patient with an arrhythmia. 5. Monitor Tech will document interpretation noting the date/time of the event and the name of nurse that received the rhythm change information in the electronic record. This will trigger a task for the nurse to verify the interpretation. 6. Physicians will be notified by the RN of rate and/or rhythm changes within 10 – 15 minutes post changes. 7. Rhythm changes will be verified and physician notification will documented by the primary nurse. 8. Any orders received from the physician will be written on the physician order form and communicated to monitor tech when appropriate. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continual visual assessment of patient's cardiac rate/rhythm. b. Routine assessment is completed once at the beginning of each 12 hour shift and PRN. a. Automatic strips obtained when alarm parameters are exceeded. b. Manual strips to be obtained by the Monitor Tech or Critical Care nursing staff. <p>The Monitor tech will complete initial interpretation for patients housed in PCU and Med-Surg. ICU nursing staff shall perform rhythm interpretation.</p> <p>Use two patient identifiers when notifying RN of changes.</p> <p>Communication with the physician is essential to ensure optimum patient care and treatment.</p> |
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