
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS MEDICAL CENTER AT CHICAGO
CLINICAL CARE GUIDELINES

Subject: Admission criteria for the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)

OBJECTIVES

To provide a safe environment for the surgical patient following the procedure

To provide guidelines for patient admission to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit

These goals will be achieved by:

- Following the guidelines for patient admission to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) developed by ASPAN and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

POSITION STATEMENTS

1. We at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago believe that providing safety for each patient and staff member is paramount to the mission of the Medical Center.

DEFINITIONS

ALDRETE Score: A scoring system implemented to objectively determine whether the patient is returning to their pre-anesthesia level of functioning (Activity, Respiration, Consciousness, Color, & Circulation). A maximum score of 10 (good) and a minimum score of 0 (bad) is possible.

PROCEDURE

- 1) Post anesthesia patients are admitted in the PACU.
- 2) Documentation:
 - a) Charting of all vital signs will be completed upon admission and every 15 minutes thereafter.
 - b) The ALDRETE Series Method will be used for patient's assessment.
- 3) All patients will remain in the PACU until the discharge criteria are met.

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PROCEDURE

EXCEPTIONS

- 1) Surgical patients that have received ONLY local anesthesia without complication.
- 2) Unstable (determined by physicians) surgical patients received in the OR directly from an ICU are admitted directly to an ICU from the OR.

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