



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

OPERATING ROOM

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: AUTHORITY FOR CLOSING OPERATING ROOMS

Policy No.: OR002
Supersedes: All
Effective Date: 02/2018
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Purpose of Procedure: To provide adequate nursing personnel for safe patient care during staff shortages.

Physician's Order Required: No

Performed By: Nurse Manager Surgical Unit or designee in conjunction with Officer of the Day or Chairman, Department of Surgery.

Policies:

1. Surgery will not be performed if adequate staffing is not available.
2. There must be a registered nurse and either a surgical technician or 2nd registered nurse for each operating room that is scheduled. Operating rooms will be closed if this requirement cannot be met or when personnel do not have the knowledge and skills necessary to provide safe care to the specific surgical patient.
3. The Nurse Manager Surgical Unit or designee will notify the Officer of the Day or Chairman, Department of Surgery when this situation occurs. The Department of Anesthesia & Nursing Department will be notified.
4. The Officer of the Day, or the Chairman, Department of Surgery will determine which patients must be done and which may be rescheduled for a later date. He/she will be responsible for notifying the surgeons affected by the closure.
5. The operating room staff will notify the patient and the nursing unit that will be affected by the closure.
6. This policy will be in effect if any other situation occurs that limits the ability to provide safe patient care such as staff shortage in Department of Anesthesia, mechanical or electrical failure of Operating Room equipment or unavailability of necessary supplies.

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References: Guidelines for Perioperative Practice 2018 Edition
Essentials of Perioperative Nursing, Fifth Edition

02/04 – Reviewed
02/10 - Reviewed
02/18 - Reviewed
02/21 - Reviewed

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