

**LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER  
CARDIOTHORACIC ICU - 5C  
SCOPE OF SERVICES**

**Department Purpose**

The Cardiothoracic ICU is a 10-bed unit, which serves as an important component of the continuum of care in the Northeast Cluster. The unit exists to provide intensive care nursing to those patients who are critically ill requiring cardiac or pulmonary surgical interventions. Patients also require intensive monitoring and treatment at the LAC+USC Medical Center. Care is ongoing and encompasses varying states of recuperation from diagnosis to treatment and rehabilitation.

**Types and Ages of Patients Served**

The Cardiothoracic ICU cares for critically ill adolescents, adults, and geriatric patients with the focus on the management of the post-operative cardiac and pulmonary systems admitted from the Emergency Department, direct admits, or outside transfers requiring higher level of care. Major medical diagnoses include, but are not limited to Coronary Artery Disease, Mitral Insufficiency, Mitral Stenosis, Aortic Stenosis, Aortic Regurgitation, Dissecting Aneurysm, Unstable Angina, Myocardial Infarction, Endocarditis and Congested Heart Failure.

**Methods Used to Assess Patient Needs**

A multidisciplinary approach to patient care management is utilized to assess and assist the patient/family in making an educated decision about his/her care. Nursing and the Cardiothoracic house staff, under the direction of the Cardiothoracic Attending, Fellows, and Physician Assistant, act collaboratively with PT/OT, Nutritionists, Social Services, Pharmacy, and Speech Therapy to develop and plan an appropriate plan of care with each patient. Additional collaboration exists with Pastoral Care, Palliative Care, the Department of Radiology, Laboratory Services, One Legacy, Epidemiology, and the Pain Management Team.

**Scope of Service and Complexity of Care**

The focus of care is to stabilize and restore the patient to their optimal level of functioning by supporting critically ill patients in varying states of recuperation from cardiothoracic or pulmonary interventions. Important aspects of care involves managing appropriate invasive monitoring equipment; managing life support equipment; preventing complications and promoting healing; evaluating and treating acute injuries; providing a therapeutic environment; educating patient/family to improve self-care abilities, health maintenance and rehabilitation; and facilitating transfer from the intensive care setting.

**Determining the Extent to Which the Level of Care Meets Patient Needs**

Patients are continually assessed for their response to therapeutic interventions and for the attainment of desired goals. Nursing participates in performance improvement activities and quality monitoring. Patient satisfaction surveys are mailed to patients after discharge.

**Volume & Quality Control Indicators**

- Patient/Family Teaching
- Blood Transfusion
- Restraints
- Pre-op Preparation

*Reviewed/Refreshed: March 2005; December 2012; January 2016; June 2020*

*Approved: August 2020*

*5C – Cardiothoracic Complex – ICU – Scope of Services*

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**Volume & Quality Control Indicators conti.**

- Pain Management
- Fall prevention
- Clinical Alarms
- Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infections
- Nursing Process
- Patient Identification Practices
- Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections
- Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Management
- Hand Hygiene
- Ventilator Associated Pneumonia

**Performance Improvement Indicators**

- Decrease Surgical Sternal wound infections
- Pain Management
- Reduce Hospital Acquired Pressure Ulcer Incidence
- Hand Hygiene Compliance
- Reduce Catheter Associated Blood Stream Infections
- Increase Patient Experience
- Reduce Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection

**Recognized Standards**

Care is provided consistent with applicable regulatory and professional standards inclusive of, but not limited to the California Board of Registered Nursing, OSHA, Joint Commission, Title 22, Department of Health Services, FDA, American Association of Critical Care Nurses, and the American College of Cardiothoracic Surgeons.

**Availability of Necessary Staff**

The unit operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The nursing staff reports to a Nurse Manager who works collaboratively with the Cardiothoracic Thoracic Service Medical Director. The Nurse Manager is responsible for staffing the unit with adequate nursing staff and ancillary staff to meet the acuity needs of the patients and the census of the unit. She or he is responsible for the quality of the nursing care provided and the performance of assigned staff. Staff on the unit have specific competencies for their professional level and /or job description. Patient care is provided by Registered Nurses who have successfully completed all aspects of the CORE Critical Care Program and/or have obtained a CCRN credential. Nursing attendants and clerical staff provide additional support.