
Diagnostic Services – Department of Radiology – Nursing Division

SUBJECT/TITLE: Charge Nurse in the Radiology Department

PURPOSE:

1. To coordinate quality patient care in the Radiology Department
2. Resource for decision making
3. Promote efficient utilization of resources
4. Facilitate communication within the Radiology Department and outlying areas

DEFINITION:

BACKGROUND:

POLICY:

A Radiology nurse will be assigned as the charge nurse on a rotating basis by the NM.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHARGE ROLE:

- 1) The charge nurse will assume charge nurse responsibilities until the end of his/her shift. He/she may re-assign the role on a temporary basis to accommodate conflicts (meals, meetings, etc.)
- 2) The charge nurse will assume responsibility upon arrival and will carry the appropriate beeper (#7801) until the end of their shift.
- 3) He/she will be assigned to work in the recovery/interventional area to facilitate increased flexibility for problem solving and productive throughput.
- 4) Staffing requirements in Interventional, CT Prep, MRI, and recovery should be assessed frequently throughout the day and appropriate fluctuations in assignments delegated.
- 6) A collaborative and supportive approach is essential to coordinate services from all areas of radiology.

- 7) The charge nurse will portray the role of a resource person and problem solver to various situations that might occur with nursing, radiology technologists, patients, hospital clinics or floors, and physicians. The NM is available to the charge nurse and staff for additional support.
- 8) Assure appropriate orientation for new personnel, non-regular unit staff, and students participating in a patient care rotation.
- 10) The charge nurse pager will be carried by a remaining staff member when the charge nurse's shift is complete.
- 11) Charge nurse compensation will be provided to the assigned nurse due to the increase responsibilities of supervising staff (RNs and NAs), facilitating work assignment changes as needed, and filling or covering vacancies due to unexpected absences.

Written: 12/91

Revised: 3/92, 8/95, 9/98, 12/00, 7/07

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