

OR nurses: uncover recovery differences

How difficult can the process of taking a patient to recovery be? Well it's not that difficult, but I have found a few differences along the way that might be helpful for you OR nurses to be aware of when taking a new assignment. If you are aware of these possible differences, you will not be so surprised when they are brought to your attention for the first time at your new facility.

I used spend additional energy trying to remember if I should call recovery before I take the patient back. Lord knows...I didn't want to arrive in the recovery room again only to be greeted by nurses with scowls on their faces because I didn't call to warn them I was coming. Some facilities, want you to just come on over. Other recovery room staff will be very upset you if don't call them with some sort report before arriving. After awhile, I stopped trying to figure the recovery situation out from the beginning. I found it easier to get in the habit of calling a report to recovery before leaving the OR no matter what facility I am working at. This way I have covered my basis. The recovery room staff will tell you if calling is unnecessary, but they will appreciate the effort.

Most hospitals want you to go with the patient to recovery, however, sometimes they will want you to send the paperwork on the chart and stay in the operating room for a fast turn over. In this case, the anesthesiologist and the surgeon go with the patient to recovery. Try to go along with the normal process set in place. On the other hand, if I feel uncomfortable with this plan or I am not finished with my paperwork, I go with the patient to recovery regardless. Nobody should be able to legitimately complain about thorough nursing care.

Finally, I take time to observe what they do with that pesky but necessary pneumatic compression machine at the end of the procedure; my life is just that much easier. Do I keep the machine in the OR suite at the end of the procedure or do I send them with the patient to recovery? That is the question. The answer will vary from place to place.

Nothing is easy when you are new and nothing is hard. It is all the same things you have done before, but with a little twist added to it.