

What You Need to Know About West 7 Neurosciences Unit

Our Patient Population	<p>Our Neurosciences Unit is a 22 bed acute care unit. Our unit has an average daily census of about 16 patients, and we have about 70 staff members, including RNs, care partners, and health unit coordinators. Our West 7 team partners closely with multiple other disciplines to care for our patients including: neurophysiology technicians, child life and music specialists, case managers, dietitians, social workers, physical, occupational, and speech therapists, and many more. We provide care to children with epilepsy, movement and neuromuscular disorders, brain tumors, neurovascular disorders, brain injuries, and comprehensive neurosurgical and neuro-rehabilitative care needs. Our patients range in age from a few days old to adults in their early 20's.</p> <p>Our typical patient populations are: 35% Epilepsy patients 21% Neurosurgery patients 14% Neurology patients 21% Neuro-rehab patients 9% Other (medical/surgical overflow, etc.)</p> <p>We have Long Term Monitoring (LTM) on our unit, with video and electroencephalogram (EEG) monitoring for 18 of our 22 rooms. The video monitoring system is set up with infrared technology to allow for video monitoring of the patient during the night. LTM allows us to monitor a patient's EEG continuously. EEG monitors the brain waves and can be used to diagnose or monitor for seizure activity. The video portion allows the providers to see precisely what the patient's body is doing during the seizure, which can help in the diagnosis. Many of the kids are admitted to LTM to see if they need adjustments in their medications, to see if they can wean their medication, or to see if they could be considered surgical candidates for epilepsy surgery.</p> <p>Four of our rooms have ceiling lifts which are useful for patients who are rehabbing after an injury or surgery.</p>
Location	West tower, 7th floor
Getting Your Assignment	Assignments are distributed in the nurse workroom on the north side of unit. Students are assigned to a patient, not to a nurse.
Getting Report	Handoff report is verbal. You may print a work list or use a report sheet given to you by your clinical instructor. Night shift usually begins giving day shift report at 0707. Please be on time and present so you can listen to report.
Vitals	Vital signs are routinely ordered as Q4 hr, Q 8hr, or TID (meaning three times per day). Rectal temps are taken on infants less than one year old. Apical heart rates are also taken on infants less than one year old- be sure to listen for one full minute.
I & O	Intake and output should be documented when the patient eats, drinks, or goes the bathroom. I & O should be addressed on hourly checks or every 4 hours at minimum.
Weights	Weights are done on day shift per provider order. It's very important that weights are completed before patient care rounds which typically begin between 0930 and 1000.
Labs	Morning labs that need to be drawn by an RN are normally drawn on night shift between 0500 and 0600. Some patients who are on seizure medications need a trough level drawn before their morning medications are given. Be sure to touch base with your nurse to discuss timing. If your patient has a central line and labs need to be drawn, touch base with your instructor and the nurse to see if you can be involved.

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IV	IV assessments are completed at the beginning of every shift by the patient's nurse and then every hour if infusing or every 8 hours if capped. Touch base with your nurse and instructor to see how you can be involved.
Medication Administration	Students can administer many medications under direct supervision of their clinical instructor or the patient's bedside nurse. Students cannot push any IV medications except for saline. See policies and procedures for more details. The clinical instructor and student are responsible for letting the nurse know if they will be giving any medications to the patient.
Supplies	Most patient supplies are in the supply room which can be accessed on the high side, low side, or from the "short cut" hallway. Frequently used items such as diapers and syringes for tube feeding will be at the bedside.
Nutrition Room	The nutrition room is located across from W711. Juice and milk are kept in the refrigerator. The cabinets contain snacks such as pudding, jello, baby food, graham crackers, etc. This is also where you'll find silverware, baby bottles, and formula. The breast milk refrigerator and freezer are in the nutrition room too. Breast milk is treated similar to medication administration; it must be scanned into Timeless to confirm that it's being given to the correct patient.
Alerts & Alarms	Pox alarms and seizure alarms are common to hear on West 7. When a seizure alarm goes off, a Voalte notification is sent to the patient's nurse. The light outside of the patient's room also turns yellow. If you ever respond to a seizure alarm, DO NOT press the orange seizure cancel button. You can help the patient and assist in care, but please know that another nurse is on the way to help. There is also a bed exit alarm on the Stryker Go-beds.
Monitors	Pulse oximeters and CRM monitors are utilized when indicated. Please remember to chart on these every hour during your hourly checks if the order is for continuous.
EVDs	Students are allowed to have patients with external ventricular drains (EVDs), but may not be responsible for managing the EVD. Students may not touch the EVD system or change the patient's position (including HOB).
Parent Breaks	If a patient's parent asks a student to give them a break, the student may do so as long as the patient is not on LTM. Students may not be responsible for monitoring for seizures or pressing the seizure button.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN's are assigned 3 patients on day shift and 3-4 patients on night shift • Care Partners are assigned 4 patients • West 7 has a consistent care-giver program for children who have lengthy hospital stays and challenging diagnoses. It is important to remember the strength that the nurse/patient relationship plays in promoting positive outcomes and patient and nurse satisfaction. When caring for child, remember to consider the relationship and its impact as you provide care for a learning experience. • RN's carry iPhones linked to nurse call system called Voalte phones. This is how they communicate with each other, physicians, and other members of the interdisciplinary team. They can answer call light through their Voalte phone and get alarms such as seizures and pox alerts. • We hope you enjoy your clinical on West 7! 😊

West 7 Leadership Team

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