



Abbreviations (laboratory & radiology excluded):
 APRN = Advance Practice Registered Nurse
 CICU = Cardiac Intensive Care Unit
 CV = cardiovascular
 WNLs = Within normal limits

Inpatient to discharge

Patient ready for transfer from CICU to 4 Sutherland

- Blue Team receives hand-off from CICU
- Patient assessed by Blue Team in CICU and meets family

Patient is transferred to 4 Sutherland

Vitals
Wean oxygen
 ◦ Room air or home O₂
Chest tube
 ◦ Monitor output
 ◦ Remove chest tubes
Heart rhythm
 ◦ Monitor and remove pacing wires

Diet
Encourage PO intake - advance as tolerated
Initiate bowel regimen
PRN ondansetron for nausea/vomiting
 ◦ 0.1 mg/kg/dose, max dose 4 mg

Pain Management
Ketorolac
 ◦ q6hr > 6 months
 ◦ Transition to PO ibuprofen 5-10 mg/kg/dose
Acetaminophen PO PRN
 ◦ 10-15 mg/kg/dose
 ◦ Scheduled for 48hrs
Opioids
 ◦ First line: PO oxycodone
 ◦ Second line: IV morphine
Erector Spinae Plane Catheter

Physical Activity
Holding
 ◦ Caregivers to hold infants
Ambulation
 ◦ In patients that can walk
Physical Therapy
 ◦ Consult for older patients if needed

Diuretics
IV Initially
 ◦ Transition to enteral once chest tubes removed
BMPs
 ◦ Trended
 ◦ Replace electrolytes as needed
 ◦ Monitored daily while on IV diuretics; when on oral diuretics and WNLs- stop monitoring
Kidney Function
 ◦ Monitored (same as BMPs)

Chest Tube Removal Criteria
 (determined at 7am rounds by surgeon)
 < 10 ml/kg in 24hrs
 < 5 ml/kg in 12 hrs
 < 200 ml for older children/teens/young adults

Pacing wires unlikely to be on Thoracotomy patients

Erector Spinae Plane Catheter
 Pain team to follow if catheter in place

Discharge Readiness
Discharge Testing
 ◦ Post-op EKG and ECHO
 ◦ CXR s/p removal of chest tubes
Discharge Teaching
 ◦ Post-op care instructions reviewed by APRN w/family
 ◦ Provided hand-out and Get Well Network video
Incision Care
 ◦ APRN completes chest tube site care w/family

D/C day determined day before discharge
 Anticipate to d/c by noon the following day

Discharge home
 Follow-up appointments arranged with:
 • CV surgery
 • Outpatient cardiologist

Algorithms:
 • [Prior to Surgery](#)
 • [Intraop - Bypass](#)
 • [Intraop - Thoracotomy](#)
 • [CICU](#)

This care process model/clinical practice guideline is meant as a guide for the healthcare provider, does not establish a standard of care, and is not a substitute for medical judgment which should be applied based upon the individual circumstances and clinical condition of the patient.