

BACKGROUND

Critically ill patients require close continued close monitoring and specialized care during recovery but an ICU stepdown unit can bridge the gap between ICU and med-surg while improving outcomes and optimizing resource utilization. Recognizing the need for structured transitional care, our team convened a workgroup to design and implement an ICU stepdown unit.

PURPOSE

To develop and implement a clinical care model that enhances patient safety, improves outcomes, and create a more efficient care model. This model will streamline patient flow, reduce care delays, and improve overall hospital efficiency.

METHODS

A collaborative workgroup that included leadership and nursing staff that met regularly to:

1. Define admission, discharge, and transfer criteria for stepdown care
2. Assess infrastructure and equipment needs
3. Revise workflows and policy to support our transitional care model
4. Develop education and competency plan for nursing staff



Skill Level



RESULTS

The workgroup has developed a plan with projected outcomes that include:

1. Reducing ICU length of stay, increasing availability of critical care beds
2. Improving staff satisfaction and retention through specialization of care
3. Enhancing patient and family experience during recovery

CONCLUSIONS

The development of an ICU stepdown unit through a team-based, structured approach demonstrates nursing leadership innovation. We aim to deliver the highest level of care in a more efficient, safer, and more compassionate way for our most vulnerable patients.

REFERENCES

SEE AUTHORS FOR REFERENCES and image references

