



QUINTE HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

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Telemetry Monitoring

Title: Telemetry Monitoring		Policy No:	3.25
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Department:	Nursing	Policy Lead:	Clinical Educator – Medicine
Approved By:	Nursing Practice Committee		

1. POLICY

Cardiac/Telemetry monitoring is a process for the detection of arrhythmias in the hospitalized patient with documented or suspected acute coronary syndromes and any other clinical condition requiring arrhythmia detection. Telemetry monitoring and cardiac rhythm interpretation is an added competency for Registered Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses at Quinte Healthcare Corporation (QHC). Nurses will complete rhythm interpretation education through either a post-secondary institution or QHC in order to meet certification requirements prior to caring for patients on telemetry monitoring.

2. PURPOSE

Continuous cardiac rhythm monitoring in patients outside the critical care unit occurs:

- To provide early detection of and immediate intervention for potential life-threatening arrhythmias
- To monitor non-threatening arrhythmias for diagnosis and/or treatment

3. PROCEDURE

a) Admission Criteria:

- Patients admitted who are at risk of a clinically significant arrhythmia
- Patient requires monitoring as part of a treatment plan to:
 - Ensure immediate treatment of potentially life-threatening arrhythmia
 - Facilitate the adjustment/modification of a treatment plan
 - Respond to potential side effects
 - Diagnose specific arrhythmias for undifferentiated symptoms (such as syncope)
- Telemetry patients may include for example, but are not limited to:
 - Documented arrhythmias (e.g. AF, VT, VF, PSVT or bradycardias)
 - Post MI
 - Coronary ischemia
 - Post Pacer insertion
 - Chest trauma
 - Syncope NYD
 - Electrolyte imbalance
 - Prolonged QT interval

b) Discharge Criteria:

- Patients for whom the risk of a clinically significant arrhythmia is judged to be sufficiently low, or, in the case of monitoring for diagnosis, after the diagnosis is reached in conjunction to a physician order.

c) Nurse Monitoring

Nurses caring for patients with cardiac/ telemetry monitoring will be responsible for understanding basic cardiac assessment and the nursing actions and interventions related to the clinical assessment.

- The nurse must complete the interpretation and documentation of the patient's cardiac rhythm every 12 hours and with any arrhythmia changes. The monitoring strip must include the patient's name and/or identification code, date and time. All monitoring strips will be retained as part of the chart.
- Documentation will include but not limited to:
 - 1) Time initiated
 - 2) Date initiated
 - 3) Date discontinued
 - 4) Telemetry unit number
 - 5) Monitored heart rate
 - 6) Apical heart rate
 - 7) PR interval
 - 8) QRS interval
 - 9) ST segment
 - 10) Cardiac rhythm
- Patients on telemetry may require monitoring, depending upon their pathology, during transport to other areas. Unless otherwise directed by a physician, this is a nursing decision based upon patient stability and their potential for fatal arrhythmias.