



## Your Stay in the Extension Unit

*A place to begin healing and receive care*

*Welcome to your room on our Extension Unit. We will provide you with the best medical care possible during your stay.*

*The Extension Unit is an extension of the acute care units and an important part of hospital operations. This handout will help you understand what to expect during your stay.*

**Extension Unit:**

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**Room Number:**

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**Phone Number:**

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**Charge RN/Contact:**

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### What is the Extension Unit?

Patients come to the Extension Unit from clinics, the Emergency Department, and the PACU (Post Anesthesia Care Unit).

- When the hospital has more patients than expected, the Extension Unit allows patients to receive inpatient care.
- The Extension Unit prevents surgeries from being cancelled.
- The Extension Unit prevents patients from being moved to other hospitals.
- This unit functions just like any other inpatient unit.
- Your stay here may be temporary, or you may complete your hospital stay here.

### Who are my care providers?

The Extension Unit focuses on safe and effective care. A care provider is a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional. The care providers on this unit are Registered Nurses (RNs) and Patient Care Technicians (PCTs).

- Nurses on this unit are trained to work on multiple units in the hospital.
- There are safe nurse to patient ratios. You will receive close monitoring and attentive care.
- Your nurse will coordinate your nursing care throughout your stay with your team.
- Your PCT will help you with ordering meals, hygiene, and moving safely around your room.

## When do I see my doctor?

On the Extension Unit, you will be monitored and assessed just like you would be on any other unit. Your doctor will check on you daily and as needed. Many providers will be caring for you during your hospital stay.

University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC) is a teaching hospital. This means there are doctors with different levels of training involved in patient care. These providers include, but are not limited to:

- An Attending, who directs your care
- A Fellow, who is completing additional training in a specialty field
- A Nurse Practitioner
- A Physician Assistant
- A Resident, who is a licensed doctor training in a certain medical or surgical area

Please ask your nurse if you want to contact your provider or know when they may visit you.

## Who can visit me?

UWMC is a family-friendly environment. We understand how important it is to have visits from friends and family during your stay in the hospital.

We follow the guidance of our Infection Prevention Specialists. Depending on the COVID prevalence rate in our local community, our guidance and openness for visitors will change.

Beginning December 6, 2021, to visit a patient at University of Washington Medical Center's Montlake and Northwest Campuses:

- **Visitors will be required to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, or a negative COVID-19 test collected within the past 3 days. This requirement is for all visitors over the age of 12.**
- Visitors will not be allowed to enter the facility if they have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Everyone over the age of 2 must wear an approved (3-layer surgical) mask at all times. If needed, one will be provided.
- All individuals must not eat or drink, except in designated areas.
- Inpatients in the Extension Unit may have only 1 – 2 visitors per day. Because of room size, patients may have only 1 visitor at a time.

- Visitors may not stay overnight in this unit, unless approved by the House Supervisor. This restriction is due to shared spaces and capacity for managing emergencies.
- Visitors may schedule virtual visits by contacting the patient's nurse, who will arrange a virtual visit via FaceTime or Zoom.
- Any disruptive visitors will be asked to leave, as explained in our family and visitor behavior guidelines.

## How do I order food?

You can order food by dialing 206.598.FOOD (3663). Snacks may also be available on the extension unit. Please ask your RN or PCT for assistance, if needed.

## How do I get Wi-Fi?

Free wireless (Wi-Fi) Internet access is available in most areas of the hospital. The name of the Wi-Fi network is "Patients and Visitors." You do not need a username or password to use this network.

## Who can I talk to if I have any issues?

If you have a comment or issue about a nurse or nurse manager, please report it to:

- Mike Powers, Nurse Manager, 206.598.0756 [mpowers@uw.edu](mailto:mpowers@uw.edu)
- Yolanda Hall, Program Operations Specialist, 206.598.4514 [yolahall@uw.edu](mailto:yolahall@uw.edu)

Please report general Extension Unit kudos, issues, or concerns to:

- Email [boarding@uw.edu](mailto:boarding@uw.edu)

## What can I expect during my stay?

Check with your nurse about your daily schedule. This includes meals, physical therapy sessions, trips outside the room, and other activities.

Speak with your nurse about ways to make your stay more comfortable. This may include pain management, repositioning, movement, personal hygiene, and noise control (using complimentary ear plugs).

## Thank You

Thank you for choosing the University of Washington Medical Center. We value your input about your stay on the Extension Unit. Please fill out a comment card, which can be found at your bedside or the nursing station.