Intensive Care Unit/Progressive Care Unit (Telemetry)

PATIENTS - ICU patients require an increased level of monitoring including breathing machines (ventilators and /or Bi-Pap), continuous heart monitors, oxygen levels, and respiration rates. Patients will often have multiple IV medications infusing.

Telemetry patients are monitored with cardiac monitors about the size of a small radio, allowing more freedom of movement.

IV ACCESS/THERAPY

IV Access- There are several types of IV access that are available based on patient needs.

PERIPHERAL- this is a small hollow needle that is inserted directly into a vein. This access is used for giving IV medications and blood products. A peripheral access is good for 72 to 96 hours based on hospital policy.

PICC LINE- this is a line inserted into a large vein and into the superior vena cava. This line is used for long term IV medications including antibiotics, chemotherapy and IV nutrition. A PICC line can have one, two, or three access ports, allowing for several medications to be run simultaneously. These lines are good for up to six months. This type of intravenous line must be inserted by a PICC-certified nurse or anesthesia. An X-Ray is required to ensure proper placement.

CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER-this type of line is inserted directly into the subclavian vein (in the clavicle region) or the internal jugular vein (in the neck). This line usually have four access ports and can be used for chemotherapy, IV nutrition, and medications that are considered vesicants (irritants) to smaller veins. Medications given through a central line go directly to the heart allowing quicker distribution through the body.