

Medical Floor

Kalispell, MT

About the Logan Health Medical Floor:

- **How many beds:** We are a 40 bed unit: 38 single rooms and 2 double rooms.
- **Patient demographics:** Our patients are all med/surg acute care level patients. Coming from the ER with any multitude of medical issues or a trauma that doesn't require ICU level cares. Patients also arrive from a doctor's office or another hospital and bypass the ER. Some patients may also down grade from the ICU or IMC units. We take overflow from the surgical unit so patients may come post-op after an orthopedic, urology or neurosurgery procedure.
- **Schedules and call requirements:** Inpatient units all self-schedule, six weeks at a time. FT and PT staff schedule first followed by PRN. There is then a week for managers to balance the schedule, based on seniority. Staff are required to work every other weekend or some equivalent of this, which looks like 4-6 weekend shifts in a 6-week period. Weekends for day-shift are Sat and Sun but weekends for night-shift are Fri and Sat. Vacations requests can be made, but there is a deadline. There is not a call requirement, however, if staffing allows a person could be asked to be on-call for their regularly scheduled shift, there is a small wage increase for on-call. Staff can also use their earned time low census (vacation time) to cover the shift.

Common treatments and skill sets/procedures:

Some of the common diagnoses you might see on the medical units are COPD, CHF, emphysema, CAD, DM, ETOH W/D, dementia, failure to thrive, falls with or without injury, kidney failure and patients on dialysis, sepsis, UTI's, GI bleeds and all sorts of different wounds.

Patients on our unit can be scheduled for many different tests and procedures including: CT, MRI, x-ray, EGD, ERCP, colonoscopy, thoracentesis, paracentesis, drains places, surgical procedure, hip fracture pinnings, dialysis catheter placement, and may even be transported across campus for radiation treatment, and back again.

Qualities of a medical floor nurse:

Thriving medical unit nurses can multitask, have great critical thinking, flexible and willing to adjust in the moment. These nurses should be open to managing all sorts of cares: medical, physical, emotional and spiritual. The



med/surg nurse is fast on their feet, hardworking and enjoys learning all aspects of nursing. They must be a team player and ready to co-care for patients with all other disciplines.

A day in the life of our unit:

The medical unit is a fast pace, high turnover environment. We could easily discharge half of our 40 patients in a dayshift and replace all 20 before the day is done. Night can be busy, too. There is always a lot going on as we strive to meet POC and get patients well enough for discharge or to their next location, which could be rehab, long term care or transitional care. Nurses collaborate with the doctors, case managers and therapists, working toward goals for healing and home.

Logan Health Medical Center has shift unit supervisors (SUS). This role is a combination of a charge nurse and supervisor. While the SUS over sees the on goings of the shift, including patient placement and staff changes, they also are the direct report of 7-10 staff members. They participate in evaluations, process improvement, staff meetings and more. The SUS is a resources to all staff and the unit. They are knowledgeable in patient care and service recovery. While they rarely discharge, they admit frequently. Patient goals change at night, and there are less disciplines involved. However our SUSs are here 24/7.

