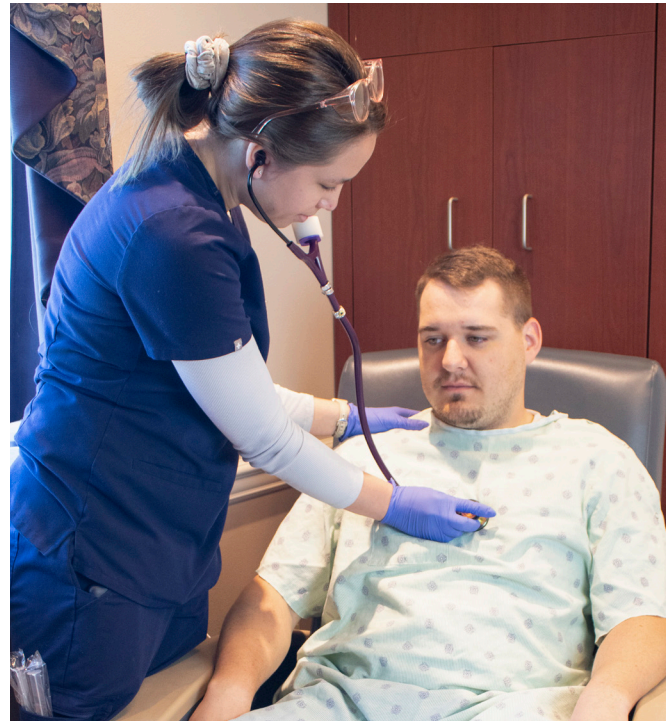


Surgical & Med/Surg Oncology

Kalispell, MT

About our Surgical and Med/Surg Oncology Unit:

- **How many beds:** Our unit has 18 beds.
- **Patient demographics:** We care for a wide range of patients. In addition to general surgery and medical patients, you may care for patients before and after the following procedures:
 - **Surgical oncology:** Colectomies, hysterectomies, Whipple's, thorascopies, lobectomies, sarcoma resections, ovarian cancer debulking, & hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC)
 - **Medical oncology:** We provide all the inpatient Chemotherapy administration in the valley that requires high intensity protocols, high reaction risk, or increased lab and/or vital sign monitoring.
 - **General medical/ surgery:** Cholecystectomies, appendectomies, urology, orthopedics, vascular procedures, ostomy formations and takedowns, and different surgeries as the result of trauma.
- **Schedules and call requirements:** We use self-scheduling and provide patient care 24/7. Shifts are 12 hours. Day-shift is from 0700-1930 and night-shift is from 1900-0730.



Common treatments and skill sets/procedures:

Our unit sees a wide variety of surgical patients. Surgeries range from orthopedics to neurology to thoracic to urology as well as surgical oncology surgeries as well. We do occasionally have active chemo patients on the floor as well.

The skill set is also a variety as well. You will see PICC lines, wound vacs, chest tubes, epidurals, PCAs, chemo administration, wound care, JP drains, hemovac drains, TPN, NG tubes, tube feedings, and ports. Those skills listed are just a few of the many things that you will learn while taking care of patients on the surgical/ oncology unit.

Qualities of a surgical and med/surg oncology nurse:

As you have read already, there is a lot to learn on our unit. It is a very fast paced environment. During the day there are lots of admits and discharges that happen. Our patients can be high acuity patients that have a lot of cares that need to be provided. It takes a lot of caring and compassion to care for these specific types of patients. There can be a lot going on with patients and the ability to communicate with patients and family members about the plan of care is very important. Critical thinking is also very important as some of the surgical oncology and medical patients can decline quickly.

A day in the life of our unit:

Days vary from nights in that days are typically fast paced as there are lots of admits and discharges as mentioned earlier. We have an amazing team of individuals that work together as a team to support each other. Nights can typically be a little slower paced but patients can be high acuity and can be very busy at times.

