

Medical / Surgical

Shelby, MT

About our medical / surgical floor:

- **How many beds:** 21 beds, 2 ED bays, 2 operating rooms and 1 recovery room
- **Patient demographics:** We serve a variety of patient demographics including adult, geriatric, and pediatrics.
- **Schedules and call requirements:** We utilize self-scheduling. Nursing staff work 12-hour shifts, usually 2-3 per week, depending on employment status. Holidays are on a set rotating schedule. There is a weekend requirement for scheduling. There is no on-call requirement. However, if staffing allows, a person may be asked to be on call for their regularly scheduled shift. Staff may be low censused and either start their shift later than scheduled or leave work before the end of their scheduled end time.

Common treatments & skills sets / procedures:

We frequently see in our ED: nonspecific chest pain, falls, strokes, pneumonia, UTI, and weakness/fatigue. With our population being so diverse, we see a range of illnesses and problems in the ED. Skill Sets/Procedures performed: IV access and fluid administration, medication administration, assisting with reduction dislocation, splinting, pediatric and adult resuscitation, bladder catheterization, nasogastric tube placement, assisting with intubation, just to name a few. Our nurses are required to have ACLS, PALS, NRP, STABLE, BLS, and TNCC.

Qualities of a medical / surgical nurse:

Nurses working in a critical access hospital must be ready to spend long hours on their feet, perform their duties swiftly and efficiently and remain calm in the ever-changing environment. The nurses cover the floor and ED. They must be able to prioritize patient care and act quickly. Qualities to being successful in a CAH environment include being assertive, having a calm demeanor/attitude, flexibility, having a strong professional foundation in nursing, and having the clinical skills to care for a variety of patients (ED, pre/post op surgery, swing bed, acutely ill patients).

A day in the life of our unit:

Our days are varied. As with any hospital, some days are busier than others. Each nurse has their own routine. Shifts are 12 hours long and you never know what the day will bring. Our staff are known for providing high quality nursing care and treating our patients with compassion.

