

# Special Care Unit (SCU)

Whitefish, MT

## About our Special Care Unit (SCU):

- **How many beds:** 4 bed unit.
- **Patient demographics:** Our patients are almost always adults who need intensive care level care. They are not critical enough to need the ICU but are too ill to be on the medical / surgical unit. We assist with after-hours recovery of surgical patients, and we will care for the occasional pediatric post-surgery patient. Most admissions are coming from the emergency department or the operating room.
- **Schedules and call requirements:** Full time status nurses work three 12-hour shifts a week with no call requirements. There are opportunities to work extra shifts at times.

## Common treatments & skill sets / procedures:

Common treatments and skills sets nurses will use in this unit include cardiac monitoring, cardiac drips, alcohol withdrawal and DKA/insulin drips.

## Qualities of an special care unit (SCU) nurse:

Flexibility will be key in this unit. Nurses are trained to critically think to ensure the best outcomes possible through intense and prolonged periods of patient management. They are diligent in their care, focusing on the small details. Nurses work together and at the same time autonomously. Highly driven, a continuous learner seeking out new opportunities to practice skills and gain experience to better care for patients.

## A day in the life of our unit:

The special care unit core staff is made up of 2 RNs on each shift. Strong teamwork and communication skills are a necessity. The the special care unit is responsible for monitoring off unit telemetry, as well.

