

# STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY  
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

**TITLE:** Guidelines for Management of Intensive Care Unit patients in the PACU  
**NO.XXX**

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- SICU patients that are boarded in PACU and who require continuous infusion inotropic support or vasoactive medications will have the Multidisciplinary Surgical Critical Care service consulted immediately as is the policy for patients admitted directly to the SICU
  - Once notified, the SICU attending/triage officer will make every effort to speed the triage process to enable transfer to the SICU
- For patients anticipated to meet these criteria while still in the OR and no bed is available in the SICU, the anesthesia attending is encouraged to notify the SICU attending/triage officer (835-9637) to facilitate triage decisions and implementation
- For SICU boarders in the PACU that do not require continuous infusion inotropic support or vasoactive medications, the anesthesia attending will maintain responsibility for the period of their recovery from the anesthetic, typically 1 to 2 hours. After this point, the primary service will assume responsibility for management of the patient. If patients become more critically ill, a consult to the MDSCC service is encouraged to assist in management.