DISCHARGE CRITERIA MEETING THE STANDARDS
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Background:
By reviewing the ASPAN Standards related to outpatient discharge criteria it was identified that discharge criteria for Phase II did not include all the Standards. Phase II discharge criteria documentation was difficult to interpret, not unified or did not exist.

Objectives:
Provide a clear, concise, simplified documentation tool that includes ASPAN Standards as it relates to discharge criteria. Incorporate ASPAN’s Standards into nursing practice. Ensure patient safety by integrating the Standards as criteria for Phase II discharge.

Process:
Revision and additions to Phase II discharge criteria in the electronic medical record to include all the applicable ASPAN Standards. Survey tool developed to monitor nursing satisfaction and improvement in practice.

Success:
The changes resulted in an improvement in nursing practice. Nurse satisfaction increased by using a unified and simplified checklist. The Standards incorporated into the discharge criteria provide for safe patient discharge from Phase II PACU.

Implications:
The Standards provide a framework for care of patients in the Perianesthesia setting. When the designated criteria are met, best patient outcome and best clinical practices result.