

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ELECTRONIC DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS FOR DAY SURGERY PATIENTS

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Background Information

- Pre-existing electronic discharge instructions due for review and updating.
- As more surgeries convert from in-patient to out-patient, discharge instructions need to be expanded to accommodate.

Objectives

- Provide patients with a clear understanding of what to expect at home.
- Create plain language instruction sheets in an easy to read format.
- Provide patients with appropriate contact information.
- Physicians are able to access from anywhere in the hospital

Process of Implementation

- Team formed with nurses from Day Surgery Unit, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, and Nursing Education Department.
- The instructions for each surgical service were reviewed by the team. Documents were created, updated, and revised as needed.
- Plain language specialist meets with team after document completed to edit content and place into simple format
- All documents were approved by a physician from each surgical service.

Statement of Successful Practice

- Patients are discharged to home safely with formalized, consistent instructions.
- Patients verbalize and demonstrate understanding of discharge instructions.
- Physicians approach team to request creation of new instructions

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia nursing

- Improve patient post-operative outcomes by decreasing rate of re-admission.
- Standardized instructions available for utilization by staff electronically throughout the hospital