

## **DECREASING OUTPATIENT SURGERY LENGTH OF STAY RELATED TO DISPOSITION OF NARCOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS**

Team Leader: Mary Christina Joy Lazo, MSN, RN, CPAN

Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland

Team Members: Marie Graziela F. Bautista, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA;

Maria Talabong, BSN, RN; Rudylene Marciano, BSN, RN, CPAN, CAPA;

Melanie Mallari, BSN, RN; Dustin Te, BSN, RN, CPAN

### **Background Information:**

- Inconsistent issuance of narcotic prescriptions by providers resulted in delayed discharge and increased length of stay (LOS) of outpatients in the PACU.
- Providers wrote narcotic prescriptions in Prep and left them in the chart without proper communication with the nurses; a violation to the Hospital Medication Order policy on the management and storage of narcotic prescription.<sup>1</sup>
- This warranted the creation of a performance improvement team to address such violation.

### **Objective:**

- To address the management and storage of narcotic prescriptions issued in the Prep Unit.

### **Implementation Process:**

- Workflow and documentation processes:
  - Narcotic prescriptions were directly given to the family by the provider for filling, with patient's approval during the preoperative period.
  - Narcotic prescriptions were stored in the medication station when the families were not present.
  - Narcotic prescriptions were documented by the nurse in the pre-procedure note and on the communication board delineating if given to the family or stored in the medication station.
- All nurses were educated on the process prior to implementation.
- Practice initiative was monitored over a six month period.

### **Successful Practice:**

- Standardized process on the management and storage of narcotic prescription for Prep and PACU was created.
- Narcotic prescriptions were filled while patient surgery was in progress.

### **Outcomes:**

- Standardized process on the management and storage of narcotic prescription decreased the LOS and facilitated the discharge of outpatients from the PACU.
- Eliminating PACU wait time related to narcotic prescription has improved patient, family, and staff satisfaction and has promoted a positive hospital experience.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Johns Hopkins Hospital Interdisciplinary Clinical Practice Manual, Medication Orders, accessed October 15, 2012, <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/hpo/policies/39/78/policy78.pdf>