

ADDING AN EXTENDED RECOVERY UNIT (ERU) TO THE PERIANESTHESIA AREA

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Background Information:

- In 2013 patients were booked for 24 hour observation but the hospital did not have a designated Extended Recovery area to accommodate these patients
- Day Surgery patients unable to meet the discharge criteria often require an overnight stay
- Patients having complex cardiac procedures often need overnight monitoring
- The decision was made to add an ERU within the Perianesthesia area

Objectives of Project:

- To accommodate those patients booked as 24 hour admissions
- To provide a unit for Day Surgery patients unable to discharge the same day
- To provide overnight monitoring for the patients having cardiac procedures
- To open and staff an ERU within the Perianesthesia area

Process of Implementation:

- The ERU opened in January 2014
- Creation of a unit that meets the needs of patients requiring an overnight stay
- Cross training of perianesthesia nurses to care for a variety of patients in this area
- Adding a Care Coordinator to help with collaboration of care for home

Statement of Successful Practice:

- Patients are now being admitted to ERU when they need more time to recover
- Nurses feel confident sending patients home safely if not ready to discharge the same day
- Appropriate bed utilization; increasing bed availability for in house patients

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:

- Having the ERU provides an alternative to a hospital admission yet allows for safe patient discharges
- Unnecessary hospital admissions are avoided thus decreasing length of stay while increasing patient and family satisfaction
- Patients are being discharged home safely with appropriate home care and follow up care