Providing 23-Hour Surgical Patients Accommodations During High Census While Maintaining The Operating Room Schedule Through Periods of Surge

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It is difficult to find a bed for overnight surgical patients during high census. Some facilities choose to cancel these cases. The Mary Washington Hospital PACU and Same Day Nurses came together and formed a plan that provides a 23 hour provision of care.

The Stage 1 PACU will receive the patient from the operating room. The patient will be recovered per protocol then transferred to one of four dedicated bays in the PACU for Stage 2 recovery prior to discharge.

The patients requiring 23 hour admission would be transferred from the main PACU to Same Day Surgery for admission until the next day. These admissions will be cared for by a dedicated staff, thus not impacting the PACU, SDS staffing pattern. The patients and their families would be advised pre-operatively that due to a high census, and the possibility of cancellation of their case, a process is in place that will accommodate their overnight stay. A patient brochure will be provided that defines the environment of care.