

ENGAGING THE PEOPLE WE SERVE THROUGH COLLABORATION

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Background Information related to problem Identification: After opening an Ambulatory Surgical Center in 2005, the Post Anesthesia Care Unit nurses discovered that there were very few documents dedicated to home care regarding the procedures performed in the outpatient setting. There was a need to provide procedure specific discharge instructions and corresponding home care documents, so that the Post Anesthesia Care Nurses would be able to provide clear and concise home care information.

Objective of Project: To collaborate with multiple surgical services and the institution's Patient Education Department in order to create/develop patient education home care documents and discharge instructions that are easy to access and comprehend.

Process of Implementation:

1. Identify consistent surgical procedures that were done in this ambulatory surgery center by reviewing the surgery schedule for the past year.
 - a. Common procedures categorized into surgical specialties.
2. Based on the common procedures, we determined which home care documents were salvageable or which needed to be created based current institutional format requirements and on review of literature.
3. Collaborate with surgical teams on the need for surgery specific discharge instructions and educational documents in our Patient Education Online system.
4. Create document drafts of both the discharge instructions and educational documents for each surgical team. Act as the liaison between our Health Information Management and Patient Education On-Line department.
5. Review final drafts with the surgical team and present for publication.

Statement of the Successful practice: The Patient Teaching Committee was able to build surgery specific discharge instructions for breast and gynecological surgeries, breast reconstruction, general ambulatory, port insertion/port removal and transrectal ultrasound prostate biopsies which are signed by both patient and surgeon to verify home care teaching. Evidenced-based home care documents were placed online and made available to both staff and patients.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Collaboration among multiple disciplines to generate clear and concise home care instructions reduced the knowledge gap at discharge. Nurses are now empowered with additional tools to educate and engage their patient to provide a safe home care environment.