

Creating a Phase II Scoring Tool for Safe Patient Discharge

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Abstract Background Information: A patient safety event prompted an analysis of post procedural discharge practices within our health system. This analysis revealed a lack of standardization to a single tool for anesthesia and sedation recovery. The lack of a standardized discharge tool increases the risk for patient safety events in a post anesthesia/sedation environment.

Objectives of Project: To create and implement a tool with clear objective criteria that helps providers to identify clear discharge readiness. Additionally, to create a standardized workflow for those who do not meet the minimum score requirement for discharge home. These objectives were created to standardize the discharge assessment for patients across all procedural settings.

Process of Implementation: The creation of a single tool, Discharge Criteria Score, was accomplished by utilizing a multidisciplinary approach and literature review. Original findings were disseminated by utilizing a standardized education approach to teach the fundamental tool to all post procedural teams in an effort to provide universal safe discharge practices. Post implementation audits were performed and education reinforced as needed.

Statement of Successful Practice: The creation of the Discharge Criteria Score allowed our organization to ensure alignment with American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurse (ASPAN) practice recommendations. This tool has received positive response from our nursing teams and its clear objective criteria supports nursing autonomy, confidence, and safe decision-making regarding discharge readiness.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Literature supports the use of a postanesthesia scoring tool in both Phase I and Phase II environments. Many organizations utilize a standardized discharge tool for completion of Phase I care, however, there is a lack of a widely known or utilized validated tool for the phase II recovery area. It is important to increase knowledge of ASPAN standards for discharge assessment and provide a foundation to guide the perianesthesia nurse to review and enhance their organization's discharge criteria practices in Phase II. The goal is to raise awareness and work to implement a validated standardized Phase II discharge tool that can be utilized universally across organizations to ensure safe patient discharge.