

Improving Same-Day Orthopedic Surgery Discharges: The Power of Early DME Needs Identification

Perioperative Services PreOp/PACU

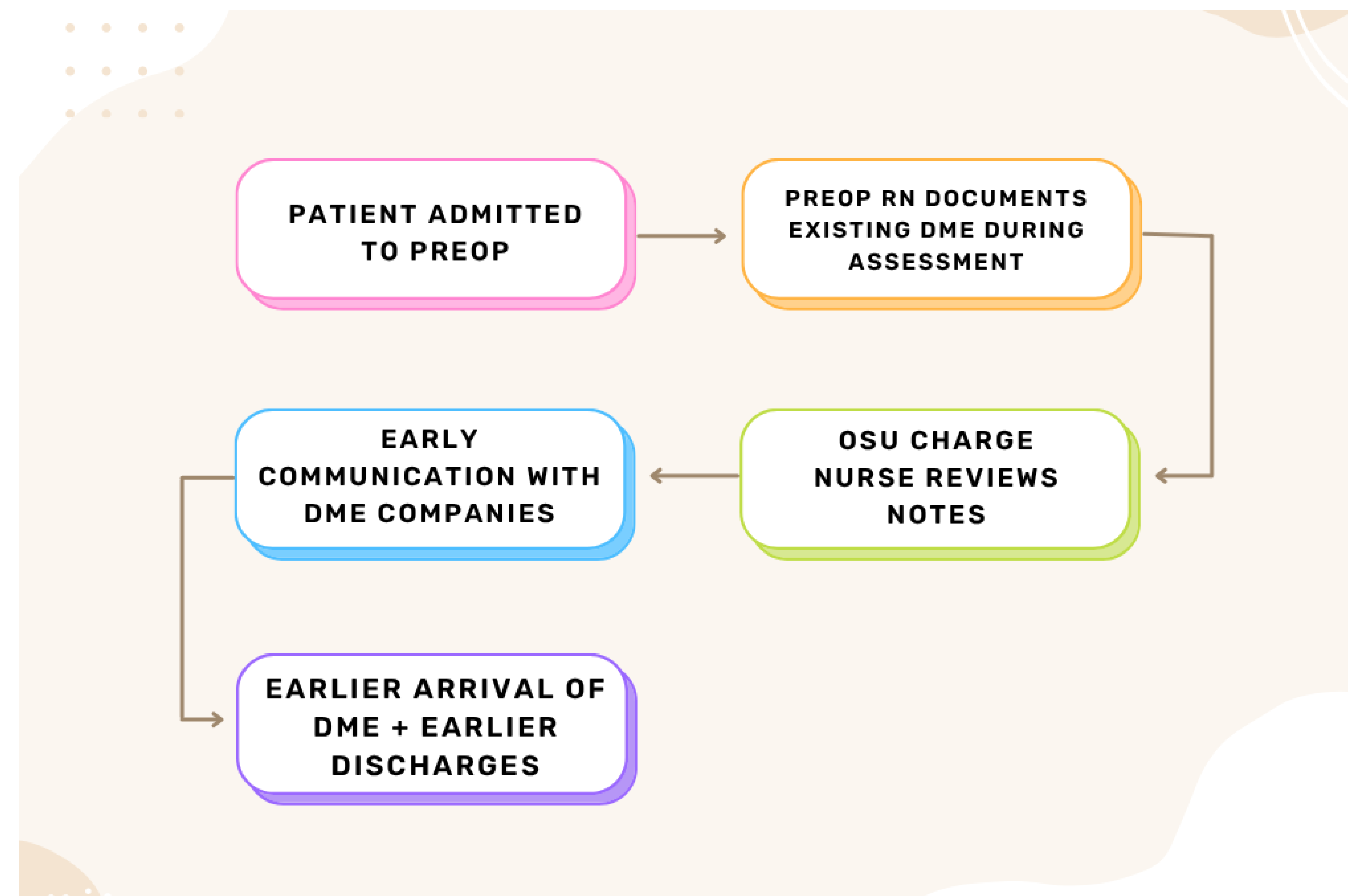
Daniel Miranda, BSN, RN, PHN, CPAN, CAPA, CMSRN; Lillyann Rowe, DNP, RN, PHN, CNML, CPAN, CCRN; Rusela DeSilva, DNP, RN, PHN, NEA-BC, CPAN, CAPA
Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles

Background Information

In the rapidly evolving landscape of outpatient orthopedic care, maximizing efficiency in the perioperative process is essential. The Outpatient Stay Unit (OSU) is committed to this goal. As a hybrid same-day PACU and 23-hour unit, we encountered a significant challenge: delays in the delivery of Durable Medical Equipment (DME) that were hindering timely patient discharges. In response, our dedicated OSU leadership teamed up with the 4-Pavilion PreOp PACU to implement an *Early Identification System* for DME needs, aiming to streamline operations and reduce Length of Stay (LOS) for our same-day patients. This initiative embodies our commitment to enhancing patient care and ensuring efficient surgical experiences.

Objectives of Project

- Reduce average LOS for same-day discharges in a 6-week period
- Increase the total percentage of same-day discharges for post-operative total joint patients



Process of Implementation

- Created EPIC SmartPhrase
- PreOp RNs document existing DME during PreOp admission
- OSU Charge RN reviews notes and arranges DME with appropriate providers
- Improved efficiency + safer discharge



Acknowledgements

This would not have been possible without the help and collaboration of the 4-Pavilion PreOp team. We would also like to thank Sugar-Kate Pacana for her assistance in gathering this data.

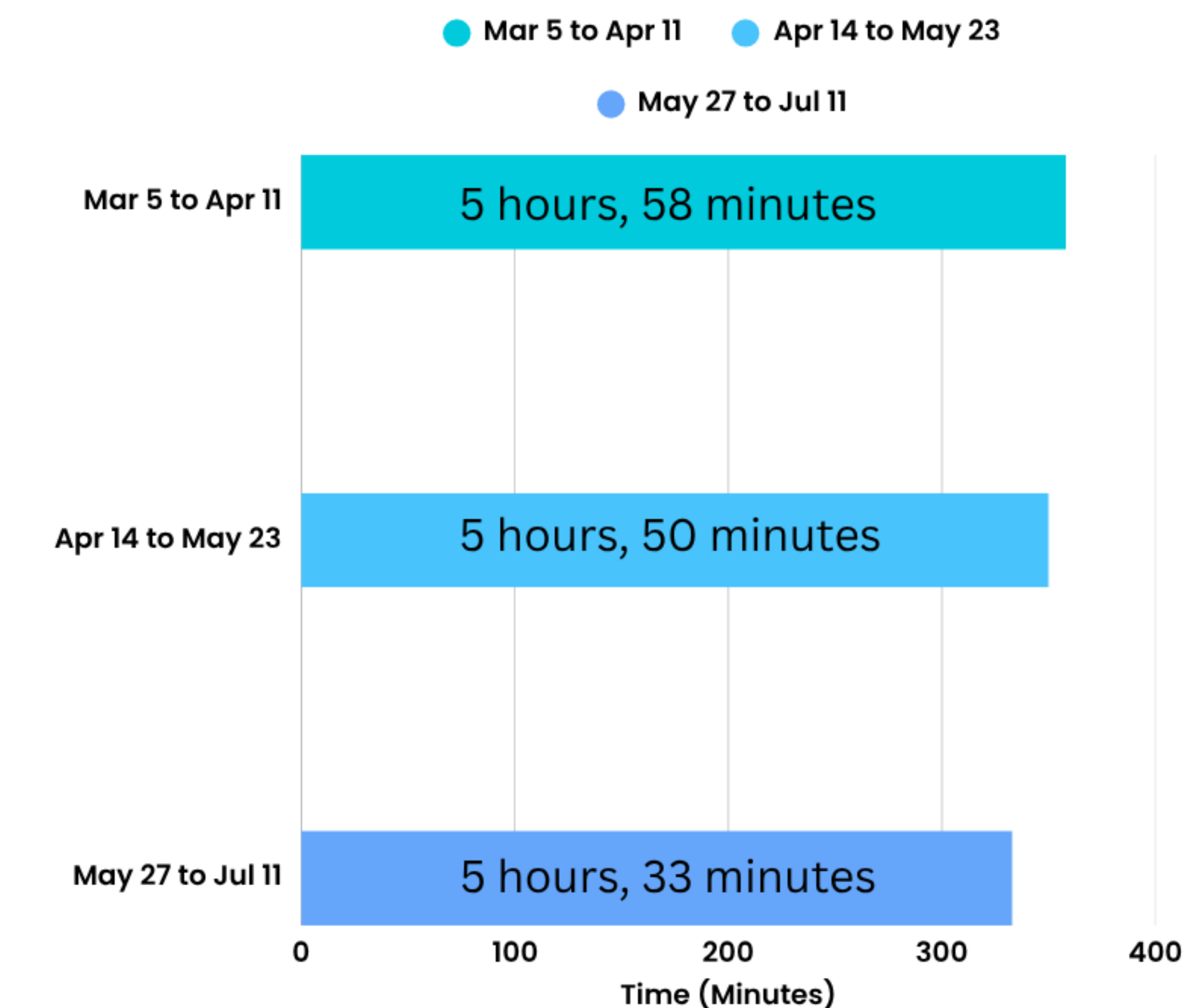
Statement of Successful Practice

The average same-day LOS pre-intervention was 6 hours and 25 minutes. A reduction in same-day LOS was observed over a period of six weeks.

- March 5, 2025 to April 11, 2025: 5 hours, 58 minutes
- April 14, 2025 to May 23, 2025: 5 hours, 50 minutes
- May 27, 2025 to July 11, 2025: 5 hours, 33 minutes

This reflects a 7% overall reduction in average LOS.

The total percentage of same-day discharges increased significantly, from 20.7% in March 2025 to 39.4% in May 2025.



Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing

The intervention implemented has successfully reduced the LOS for same-day discharges and has also increased the percentage of patients discharged on the same day. Future study will investigate additional delay factors that affect same-day discharges to further enhance the perioperative process.