

**“I’m a Same Day Surgery! Are you a Same Day Surgery? Who is a Same Day Surgery?”
Streamlining the Same Day Surgery Workflow for Total Joints from a Preoperative Perspective**

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Background Information: There has been an increase in Total Joint patients showing up for surgery scheduled as Same Day Surgery (SDS) but then having to switch to inpatient, and vice versa, due to inconsistency and incorrect identification in proper candidates for SDS. These last minute changes can lead to delays in care, misuse of resources, patients’ and staff’s dissatisfaction, and errors that may or may not reach the patient.

Objectives of Project: To create a consistent workflow that correctly identifies candidates and consistently labels cases correctly for Total Joint cases.

Process of Implementation: There were multiple gaps in communication within the workflow. Based on these gaps identified, the initial root of miscommunication started in the offices and trickled down through the workflow process. A task force visited each area involved with Total Joint cases. Education was given to staff to show importance of consistent and correctly identifying proper patients and the consequences that can occur by not doing so. Interventions were developed and implemented to help create consistency. Criteria guidelines on acceptable/ideal candidates for Same Day surgery were developed to identify correct patients.

Statement of Successful Practice: Before interventions were put into action, 62-72% of SDS was initially being posted as SDS. Once interventions were implemented, the initial posting increased to 89-100%. We also increased the volume of SDS from 16% to 35%. Anesthesia have reviewed several cases (over 15) earlier than previously done before (which was day of surgery), resulting in cases being turned from SDS to inpatient BEFORE the patient even walked into pre op. Finally, staff has reported a decrease in patient and staff frustration as well as minutes saved in the surgical area.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: The project helped provide the nurses with tools and knowledge needed to care for the Total Joint patients. The nurses were able to focus their attention on what mattered most: the patient! By knowing the correct plan of care, the nurse is able to be competent and passionate about their patient’s health.. Because information was consistent and accurate, errors were reduced and clarifications were decreased giving more time back to the staff. Bed waste was decreased (time and resources), allowing staff to use the bed and room resources more efficiently because patients went to the proper locations. Saved time, staff, and resources all equal to money saved by the patient and hospital.