**BACKGROUND**

- Orthopedic team began booking total-joints for same day surgery
- Knowledge deficit among nursing identified regarding discharging total-joints same day

**PURPOSE**

- Goal: Ensure safe discharge on post-op day 0
- Provide RN education on Lovenox and antibiotic requirement for discharge
- Collaborate with physical therapy for clearance protocols
- Identify process for the set up of outpatient services

**STAKEHOLDERS**

- Orthopedic Surgeons
- Orthopedic Nurse Practitioner
- Case Management
- Physical Therapy
- PACU Management
- PACU Staff

**IMPLEMENTATION**

- Met with stakeholders to identify service specific discharge requirements
- Issues: case management coverage, Lovenox teaching, timely physical therapy evaluation, nurse education on discharge milestones
- Quick reference nursing tip sheet drafted, reviewed, accepted and implemented

**CONCLUSIONS & RESULTS**

- Same day discharge process streamlined
- Next day post-op phone calls completed to ensure discharge comprehension & comfort and safety of patient at home
- Data collected Oct 2021 – Mar 2022 regarding length of stay (LOS) in PACU and percentage of all elective total joints sent home
- Average LOS: 6.16 hours
- October 2021-March 2022: 318 total-joint patients with 127 of these patients sent home
- 40% of total joints sent home

**NEXT STEPS**

- Address roadblocks that prevent discharge (i.e. hypotension, urinary retention, failed physical therapy evaluation)
- Communicate with orthopedic clinic regarding improvement opportunities
- Continue conversations with anesthesia providers regarding noted roadblocks

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