

HIGH DESERT HEALTH SYSTEM AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: VI-132 DISCHARGE FROM AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER (PHASE II)	POLICY #: 1168
	VERSION: 1
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DATE APPROVED: 08/10/2018	

PURPOSE: To define the process of evaluating and determining patient readiness for safe discharge from the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC)

POLICY: All patients will meet discharge criteria in order to be discharged from the ASC

PROCEDURE:

I. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The responsible physician, or the anesthesiologist, if the physician is not present or available, is responsible for the decision to discharge a patient from the ASC after surgery or invasive procedure. The responsible physician will document the discharge order.
- B. The Perioperative Holding Area (POHA) or Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) nurse shall apply the following discharge criteria to determine the readiness of the patient for discharge. After the discharge criteria are met, the POHA or PACU nurse may discharge the patient to home with a responsible adult.

II. DISCHARGE CRITERIA

The patient shall be deemed ready for discharge from POHA when:

- A. Vital signs are stable.
- B. There is no evidence of respiratory depression.
- C. The patient is:
 - (1) Oriented to person, place and time, or similar to pre-procedure status.
 - (2) Able to ambulate without/with minimal assistance, if appropriate for age/condition and consistent with pre-procedure level.
 - (3) Able to tolerate liquids if she/he desires to drink.

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- D. The patient does not have:
- (1) More than minimal nausea or vomiting
 - (2) Excessive pain
 - (3) Bleeding
- E. If regional anesthesia was given, the following criteria shall also be met:
- (1) Spinal:
 - Patient can ambulate normally
 - Has voided. In the absence of voiding, patient may be discharged if bladder scan demonstrates no or minimal urine volume.
 - Has received "Instructions for Patients Having Spinal Anesthesia."
 - (2) Bier block: At least 45 minutes after release of tourniquet.
- F. Patient must have a responsible adult to:
1. Escort patient home
 2. Provide care at home
- G. Patient meets the discharge criteria score of 18 to 20.

III. ASC (PHASE II RECOVERY) DISCHARGE CRITERIA SCORING SYSTEM

- A. Patients receiving a score of 0 in any category will not be discharged.
- B. Patients receiving a score of 1 in any of the first 3 categories will not be discharged.
- C. Patients receiving a score of 18-20 are ready to be discharged from Phase II by the RN or per physician's discharge instruction.
- D. Only the responsible physician or the anesthesiologist can discharge patients receiving a score of 17 or less from Phase II, after a thorough evaluation.
 1. Activity
0 = Unable to move four extremities or lift head voluntarily or on command.

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- 1 = Able to move two extremities voluntarily or on command and can lift head.
- 2 = Able to move four extremities voluntarily or on command and can lift head.
2. Respiration
- 0 = Apnea. Condition necessitates ventilator or assisted ventilation.
- 1 = Labored or limited respiration. Breathes by self but has shallow and/or rapid and/or slow respiration.
- 2 = Able to breathe deeply and cough freely, has normal respiratory rate and depth.
3. Circulation
- 0 = abnormally high or low blood pressure: BP + 50% or more of preanesthetic level.
- 1 = BP + 21-49% of preanesthetic level.
- 2 = BP + 20% of preanesthetic level.
4. Consciousness
- 0 = Not responding or responding only to painful stimuli.
- 1 = Arousable on calling but drifts off to sleep easily.
- 2 = Awake and alert, oriented to person, time and place.
5. Color
- 0 = Cyanotic
- 1 = Pale
- 2 = Normal
6. Operative Site
- 0 = Large amount of bleeding-growing
- 1 = Moderate amount of bleeding-stationary
- 2 = Absence/minimal bleeding
7. Pain
- 0 = Severe or requires IM medication
- 1 = Moderate or controlled with PO medication
- 2 = Absent or mild

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- 8. Ambulation
 0 = Unable to ambulate
 1 = Able to ambulate with assistance
 2 = Able to ambulate without assistance
- 9. Urine Output
 0 = Unable to void and uncomfortable
 1 = Unable to void but comfortable
 2 = Has voided
- 10. Fasting-Feeding
 0 = Severe nausea and vomiting, needs treatment, unable to tolerate PO fluids.
 1 = Mild nausea or vomiting, tolerates ice chips.
 2 = Tolerates PO fluids without nausea or vomiting

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