



Delegation and/or Medical Directive

Title: Post Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU) Discharge Criteria

Policy Number: 08-01

Approval Date: September 2010 / Revised October 4 2018

Review due by: Annually

Sponsoring Person: Anaesthesia Department

Does this policy include a delegation of a controlled act? Yes No

Orders:	Appendix Attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Appendix 6: PACU Discharge Criteria
Authorized Registered Nurses in the Quinte Healthcare PACU may perform the Directive and discharge patients in the PACU provided the discharge criteria, as listed in the directive, are met. (See Appendix 6 – <i>PACU Discharge Criteria</i>).	

Recipient Patients:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Patients in the Post Anaesthetic Care Units at QHC Belleville and QHC Trenton.	

Approving Physician(s)/ Authorizer(s):	Appendix Attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Appendix 1: Designated Physician Authorization Sheet
Ensure a signed copy of approvals is maintained with the Medical Directives on the unit, Medical Directive Manual (Patient Services), and Chief of Staff office.	

Authorized Implementers:	Appendix Attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Appendix 2: Authorized Implementer Form Appendix 3: Self - Learning Package Appendix 4: Self-Appraisal of Competency Statement for Authorized Staff
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All nurses at QHC working in the PACU are authorized to implement this medical directive, if the following conditions are met:

1. Completed the Self-Learning Package and have reviewed the Medical Directive annually (See Appendix 3 – “*Self - Learning Package*”).
2. Completed the Self-Appraisal of Competency Statement form and submitted to the manager, clinical educator or designate annually (See Appendix 4 – “*Self-Appraisal of Competency Statement for Authorized Staff*”).
3. Reviewed the delegation annually.

Indicators:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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- The patient is registered as a patient in PACU.
- The physician is not immediately available to provide the order.
- A patient-physician relationship has been established.
- The patient has no contraindications to the discharge criteria.

Contraindications:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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- An order is written for the anaesthetist to see the patient prior to discharge from the PACU.
- An order is written for the surgeon to see the patient prior to discharge from the PACU.
- Patient is being transferred to ICU.
- Patient’s pre-existing medical conditions may pre-empt discharge criteria.

Consent:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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- The patient is registered as a patient in the PACU.
- Nurses implementing the directive will obtain consent in accordance with hospital policies and procedures.
- Consent matters that exceed the nurses competencies will be referred to the most responsible physician prior to performing any procedures.

Guidelines for Implementing the Order/Procedure:	Appendix Attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Appendix 3: Self – Learning Package Appendix 5: Implementing a Medical Directive Appendix 6: PACU Discharge Criteria
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The authorized RN in the PACU must:

- Ensure the patient has no contraindications for the implementation of the Medical Directive.
- Complete annually Appendix 3 – (“*Self - Learning Package*”).
- Review annually and as required Appendix 5 – (“*Implementing a Medical Directive*”).
- Review annually and as required Appendix 6 – (“*PACU Discharge Criteria*”).

Documentation and Communication:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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Following QHC documentation policy and CNO standards, the nurse will document the appropriate assessments, treatments, and patient responses and outcomes, and ensure the directive is documented on the physician’s order sheet.

Review and Quality Monitoring Guidelines	Appendix Attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Appendix 4: Self-Appraisal of Competency Statement for Authorized Staff
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An education session is presented by the designated instructor to prepare the eligible nurse with the competency to discharge patients from the PACU. Upon completion of the education session and review of the *Self – Learning Manual Post Anaesthetic Care Unit Discharge Criteria (Appendix 3)*, the learner will:

1. Identify when to initiate the delegation.
2. State the appropriate procedure.
3. Demonstrate safe and correct implementation of the delegation.
4. Demonstrate the correct documentation of the delegation.

The competency test module for nurses includes:

1. A written self-test.
2. A pass of 80% is required
3. One safe and correct demonstration of the procedure.
4. Description of appropriate documentation.

In addition, each staff member designated the delegation will sign a document of competency (Appendix 4). The Designated Instructor will supervise the clinical component annually, either in the PACU Department or at a designated education session.

Staff identifying any untoward or unintended outcomes arising from implementation of orders under this directive, or any issues identified with it will report these to physician and department manager as soon as possible for appropriate disposition. This does not include untoward or unintended outcomes or issues that are possible clinical sequelae regardless of whether a directive or direct order is used.

<p>Administrative Approvals: This delegation of the controlled act of discharging a patient is approved for delegation from physician to designated instructors (if applicable) and nursing staff at QHC as described in the policy.</p>	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No								
<p>Date of Interprofessional Practice Committee Approval: September 25, 2018 Date of Surgical Program Advisory Committee Approval: September 9, 2010/October 4, 2018 Date of MAC Approval: October 2010</p> <p>Ensure a signed copy of approval is maintained with the medical directive manual coordinator, and with the Chief of Staff office.</p> <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Chief of Staff</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Chief Nursing Executive</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Date</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Date</td> </tr> </table>		_____	_____	Chief of Staff	Chief Nursing Executive	_____	_____	Date	Date
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Chief of Staff	Chief Nursing Executive								
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Date	Date								

<p>References: Kingston General Hospital. (2005). Medical Directive: Discharge for Post-Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU).</p>

- Appendices:
- Appendix 1: Designated Physician Authorization Sheet
 - Appendix:2 Authorized Implementer Form
 - Appendix 3: Self – Learning Package
 - Appendix 4: Self Appraisal of Competency Statement for Authorized Staff
 - Appendix 5: Implementing a Medical Directive
 - Appendix 6: Post Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU) Discharge Criteria