

	<b>DEPARTMENTAL CLINICAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE</b>		Page 1 of 2
Fast Tracking Of The Post Anesthetic Patient to Bypass Post Anesthetic Care Unit (PACU)			
Signing Authority:	Chief Executive Officer		
Approval Date:	26-11-2018	Effective Date:	26-11-2018

### **SCOPE:**

This policy and procedure applies to all health care providers involved in the fast tracking of patients from the Operating Room (OR) to Surgery Recovery (excluding endoscopy and cataract patients) at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH).

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

It is the policy of RVH that a surgical patient may be fast tracked to Surgery Recovery on decision of the Anesthesiologist providing care to the patient when criteria is met.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Endoscopy Procedure:** Procedures that are performed in the endoscopy suite with sedation only and are recovered in Surgery Recovery.

**Fast Tracking:** A term used to denote the act of transferring patients directly from the OR to Surgery Recovery, without caring for the patient in PACU. It is indicated for patients who have undergone a short acting anesthetic, moderate sedation or regional anesthesia and who meet agreed upon conditions.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Patients shall bypass PACU on the decision of the Anesthesiologist providing care to the patient if the following criteria have been met. The patient(s):
  - a. has fully regained consciousness
  - b. is able to guard his/her own airway
  - c. is aware of their surroundings
  - d. pain is controlled
  - e. has no or mild nausea (no vomiting)
  - f. meets the admission criteria to Surgery Recovery
  - g. surgical procedure is considered suitable for Day Surgery (i.e. discharge home on the day of surgery)
  - h. has been hemodynamically stable during the procedure with minimal blood loss
  - i. operative course has been stable and the post-operative course is expected to be uncomplicated, and
  - j. Surgery Recovery is adequately staffed and able to take the patient.
2. When the patient meets fast track criteria and is identified as suitable for fast

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tracking to Surgery Recovery by the Anesthesiologist, the PACU Resource Nurse shall be contacted by the OR and plans for bed assignment shall be completed.

3. In the event that the patient's initial assessment in Surgery Recovery does not meet Admission Criteria for Surgery Recovery the Anesthesiologist shall be contacted and the patient shall be transferred to PACU.

**CROSS REFERENCES:**

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, Departmental Policy and Procedure (2010). *Admission Criteria to Post Anesthetic Care Unit (PACU) Phase 2.*

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, Departmental Policy and Procedure (2015). *Patient Identification.*

**REFERENCES:**

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Glick, D. B. (2018). Overview of post anesthetic care for adult patients. Retrieved March 22, 2018 from [https://www.uptodate.com/contents/overview-of-post-anesthetic-care-for-adult-patients?search=bypass%20pacu&source=search\\_result&selectedTitle=2~150&usage\\_type=default&display\\_rank=2](https://www.uptodate.com/contents/overview-of-post-anesthetic-care-for-adult-patients?search=bypass%20pacu&source=search_result&selectedTitle=2~150&usage_type=default&display_rank=2)

National Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses of Canada (2017). *Standards for practice.* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Pembroke, ON: Pappin Communications.