

## NURSING SERVICE GUIDELINES POST-ANESTHESIA CARE UNIT (PACU)

**Guideline:** Care of the post-op outpatient hemodialysis patient



**Policy Number Superseded:**

**Effective Date:**  
June 2025

**Responsibility:** Registered Nurse (RN)

**Initial Effective Date:**  
June 14, 2010

**Purpose of Guidelines:** The purpose of this procedure is to delineate the responsibilities of staff involved with hemodialysis patients who are in need of treatment immediately following outpatient surgery.

### **Procedure:**

Equipment: Discharge Instructions

- (A) PACU nursing staff will admit the patient and care for them according to the scope of service currently in place. Refer to policy #3364-125-05 Admission and Discharge of Post Anesthetic Patients. Refer to American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nursing (ASPAN) standard for the care of post-operative patient.
- (B) PACU nursing staff will discharge according to ASPAN standards. Refer to Post Anesthesia Recovery Score in the ASPAN Standards.
- (C) PACU nursing staff will complete all discharge instructions and education with designated family member or significant other before sending the patient to hemodialysis. All paperwork should be signed before the patient leaves recovery. If for some reason the education was given but the paperwork was not signed, the PACU nurse will go to Hemodialysis to obtain signature and answer any remaining unanswered questions the patient or family may have.
- (D) Hemodialysis nursing staff will follow normal procedures for an outpatient treatment already in place. Refer to Standard of Care and Practice K04 Nursing Management: Hemodialysis.

(E) After the treatment is finished, the hemo staff will discharge the patient to home following normal procedures already in place.

(F) At no time will the patient be sent back to the PACU to be discharged for paperwork not being completed. If this occurs, refer to item 3 above, point of emphasis.

(G) References

American Society of Peri-Anesthesia Nursing Manual

Hemodialysis SOC K 04

American Nephrology Nurses' Association Core Curriculum, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2017

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