Day of Surgery Centre (DOSC)

Criteria for Patient Discharge

The following criteria must be met before a patient can be discharged home from the Day of Surgery Centre (DOSC)

The criteria have been developed and approved jointly by the departments of:

+ Nursing
+ Anaesthetics
+ Surgery

CRITERIA

+ The patient must be rousable
+ Vital signs must be stable and within age appropriate limits for 30 minutes post-procedure
+ The patient must have minimal or no pain
+ The patient must have minimal or no bleeding or wound discharge
+ The patient must have minimal or no nausea, vomiting or dizziness
+ Medical staff have spoken to or arranged to speak with the caregiver post-operatively
+ The patient/carer must be given and have the ability to understand and follow all written and verbal instructions for all relevant aspects of post-anaesthetic and surgical care
+ The patient/carer must have a contact place and telephone number for emergency medical care as required
+ The patient/carer must have readily available access to an emergency department post discharge from the Day of Surgery Centre
+ Patients will be discharged at the discretion of the DOSC nursing staff
+ The anaesthetist or surgeon must be informed of any concerns regarding a patient, with a review conducted prior to discharge
+ It is desirable but NOT essential that the patient tolerate oral intake prior to discharge as long as provision is made to provide adequate hydration outside of DOSC
+ It is NOT essential that the patient void prior to discharge
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VARIATIONS TO THE ABOVE CRITERIA

Special exceptions may be made at the discretion of the anaesthetist, surgeon or a senior DOSC nursing staff for patients where it would benefit the patient to be discharged home earlier than usual. These would include:

- An intellectual disability (i.e. Autism)
- Patients having a short procedure (i.e. lumbar puncture)

These patients may be discharged from the recovery room once alert and as long as the Recovery Room (MR 80QQ) discharge criteria are met

LONG STAY DAY CASE CRITERIA

Children having the following procedures must remain in the Day of Surgery Centre for a minimum of:

- 4 Hours post Adenoidectomy
- 4 - 6 Hours post Tonsillectomy
- 6 Hours post Cerebral Angiogram
- 3 Hours post Renal Biopsy

A telephone enquiry about the patients well-being should be made as requested the day after discharge by the DOSC nursing staff as per the Australian Day Surgery Nurses Association (ADSNA) guidelines

Approved by:
- Division of Surgery Heads of Department
- Dr. Philip Ragg (Anaesthetist)
- Sarah Geerts (Nurse Unit Manager – Day of Surgery Centre)

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