



**Service Priorities and Programmes**  
**Electronic Presentations**

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**A modification on same day discharge assessment to ensure postoperative patient safety**

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**Introduction**

In the past, for those postoperative patients who can be same day discharged, the discharge assessment is used to be mainly focused on the surgical aspect. Surgeons are the only persons who allow patients for same day discharge without the postanaesthetic assessment by anaesthetist. In order to ensure the suitability for same day discharge are assessed comprehensively, an anaesthetic assessment checklist which is designed by an experienced anaesthetist is carried out in Day Surgery Centre of PWH. Patients can be auto-discharged once they fulfill all the criteria in the checklist completely together with the agreement of surgeons.

**Objectives**

To guarantee the same day discharge patients are able to go home safely without any surgical and anaesthetic complications.

**Methodology**

There have 5 postoperative concerns (vital signs, activity levels, nausea and vomiting, pain and surgical bleeding) in the same day discharge criteria. Patients must gain enough score in each aspects before home. Full scores are 10 and patients must get 9 scores at least in total. The first assessment can be done 2 hours postoperatively in ward. If the first assessment is fail, second assessment should be done 2 hours later or on discharge. If the second assessment is also fail, then the patients are not allowed to discharge home and they should stay in hospital for further observation even they are surgically fit for discharge. Nurses in Day Surgery Centre will inform both the surgeons and the list anaesthetist for any failed discharge. For the successful discharge cases, they are also recommended to go home with at least one person escort.

**Result**

At the very beginning, this program was implemented on dental patients who were undergoing general anaesthesia. Since the outcome is satisfactory, now we are extending our target group to all the postoperative patients who are undergoing general or regional anaesthesia and planned for same day discharge. So far, nil post

discharge complications is recorded under this anaesthetic assessment program performed by nurses. With this comprehensive assessment, postoperative patient safety can be guaranteed during their home journey. Besides, the autonomy of nurses can be built up together with the improved nursing standard. Overall, this program is remarkably successful and valuable to carry on.