



**Origination:** 01/2003  
**Last Approved:** 07/2015  
**Last Revised:** 07/2015  
**Next Review:** 06/2018  
**Owner:** Heather Shipman: Executive Assistant (KRM Chief Executive)  
**Policy Area:** Patient Care Services  
**References:**

## Discharge Planning and Criteria for Outpatient Surgical and Invasive Procedures, 699.42.00

### Document Type: Policy

**SUPERSEDES:** 9/11, 4/09, 4/06, 7/05, Changed from Dept. Specific to HW Replacing 21.58 and 22.07 1/03

### PURPOSE:

To establish criteria for safe discharge and transport of patients for outpatient surgical and invasive procedures.

### POLICY:

1. Patients must meet the established criteria to be discharged home/care facility.
2. A physician order for discharge will be written in the patient's medical record.
3. A responsible caregiver must drive the patient home with recommendations to be available for post-procedure care.

### PROCEDURE:

The established criteria for discharge post-procedure include the following:

1. Vital signs stable or consistent with the patient's age and pre-procedural, baseline status.
2. Normothermic, Temperature at least 96.8 (core) or 96.4 (oral)
3. Respiratory status stable; no signs of respiratory distress
4. Alert and oriented or returned to pre-procedural condition
5. Adequate pain control (general guideline: level 5 or less)
6. Minimal nausea/vomiting
7. Minimal dizziness
8. Able to ambulate, consistent with pre-procedure ability and/or limitations as a result of surgical/invasive procedure.
9. Able to swallow, consistent with pre-procedure ability
10. No excessive bleeding from surgical site.
11. Surgical dressing dry and intact.
12. Adequate neurovascular status of the operative extremity (color, temperature, peripheral pulses, sensation)
13. Voiding prior to discharge will be based on specific physician order and/or patient assessment based on type of procedure/length of recovery.
14. Discharge education and instructions given to patient/accompanying responsible care-giver.

## DISCHARGE CRITERIA:

1. The following scoring system will be utilized.  
See addendum.
2. Patients will not be discharged without notification of the physician if:  
Score of "0" in any category  
Score less than 2 for respiratory or movement
3. Vital signs will be monitored and documented every 15 minutes x 4, every 30 minutes x 2 and every 1 hour x 2 and at discharge. The discharge criteria evaluation will be completed and documented with each vital sign until discharge criteria score is met and with change of patient condition.

## SAFETY:

For the safety of our patients receiving sedation/anesthesia, the following post-procedure guidelines have been established:

1. Patients must arrange a driver home with a responsible caregiver available post-procedure.
2. In the event that the patient is unable to arrange personal resources for transportation home, alternative modes of transportation, based on the patient's condition, will be evaluated by the registered nurse with the patient and physician's consent.
3. Kadlec Medical Center recommends patients will be discharged with a responsible individual who will receive the discharge instructions and be available post-procedure.
  - a. Patients that are expected to be discharged from Phase II the day of surgery will be told at their Pre-Admission Services appointment and on the pre-op phone call the night before surgery that they must have a responsible adult stay at the hospital during their surgery in order to be immediately available for transport home when the patient meets clinical criteria for discharge.
  - b. If post-procedure care and safe transportation home cannot be arranged, the procedure may be cancelled except for urgent/emergent procedures according to the established definitions for such procedures.
  - c. In the event that a responsible individual is not available, the registered nurse will consult with the physician for arrangements for post-procedure care based on the condition of the patient.

## DISCHARGE CRITERIA SCORING SYSTEM:

### Patient Assessment Interpretation

Final Assessment score must be 12 or greater or approved by a physician.

Respiratory	Score	2	Respiration adequate, deep breaths, coughs. Dyspnea, limited or shallow. Apnea.
	Score	1	
	Score	0	
B/P	Score	2	Blood pressure stable and within 20% of patient's admission B/P. Blood pressure 20-50% of patient's Admission B/P. Blood pressure greater than 50% of patient's Admission B/P.
	Score	1	
	Score	0	
LOC	Score	2	Fully Awake, alert and oriented, or return to pre-anesthesia Level. Responds to verbal or tactile stimuli.
	Score	1	
	Score	0	

			Unresponsive or difficult to arouse.
Movement	Score Score Score	2 1 0	Able to move all extremities, ambulate or return to pre-Anesthesia levels. Able to move with assistance and moves two extremities. Unable to move, no activity.
O2 Sat	Score Score Score	2 1 0	Able to maintain O2 saturation within 5% of pre-anesthesia level and no O2 needed. Needs oxygen supplementation or unable to maintain O2 saturation 10% of pre-anesthesia level. Needs oxygen supplementation and O2 saturation level greater than 10% of pre-anesthesia level.
N/V	Score Score Score	2 1 0	Absence of nausea, or if present, patient can still swallow and retain some fluid. Some nausea/occasional vomiting that does not require Treatment or subsides with treatment. Uncontrolled nausea and or vomiting that prohibits the patient from retaining fluids.
Pain	Score Score Score	2 1 0	No pain or complains of mild pain, which is relieved with medication. Corresponds to a score of 5 or less on the numeric, faces or FLACC scale. Definite pain causing obvious discomfort which is not relieved by medication. Corresponds to a score between 5-8 on the numeric, faces or FLACC scale. Severe pain, unrelieved by medication. Corresponds to a score of 8 or greater on the numeric, faces or FLACC scale.
Procedure Site	Score Score Score	2 1 0	Dressing dry and intact, no signs of drainage. Minimal drainage noted or old drainage with no

			reoccurrence. Continuous drainage noted or saturated dressing
--	--	--	---

**Attachments:**

No Attachments

**Applicability**

Kadlec Regional Medical Center

COPY