



Diffusion of Successful Same Day Discharge Practice for Total Joint Arthroplasty Patients to a Select Population of Mastectomy Patients

June Nichols, BSN, RN, Clinical Leader
 Charlene Salvi, BSN, RN, Clinical Leader



Background

- Reimbursement criteria by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) *inpatient-only list* continues to evolve with advancements in technology, care and coordination.
- Hospitals face business and quality imperatives of adjusting care pathways to allow for safe, high quality discharge of surgical patients earlier than ever.

Setting

- A 171-bed community teaching hospital in the northeast United States
- Previous practice was to admit patients to the surgical unit for 24 hours prior to discharge.
- Staff wanted to model the successful same day discharge practice for total joint arthroplasty patients to a new patient population.

Purpose

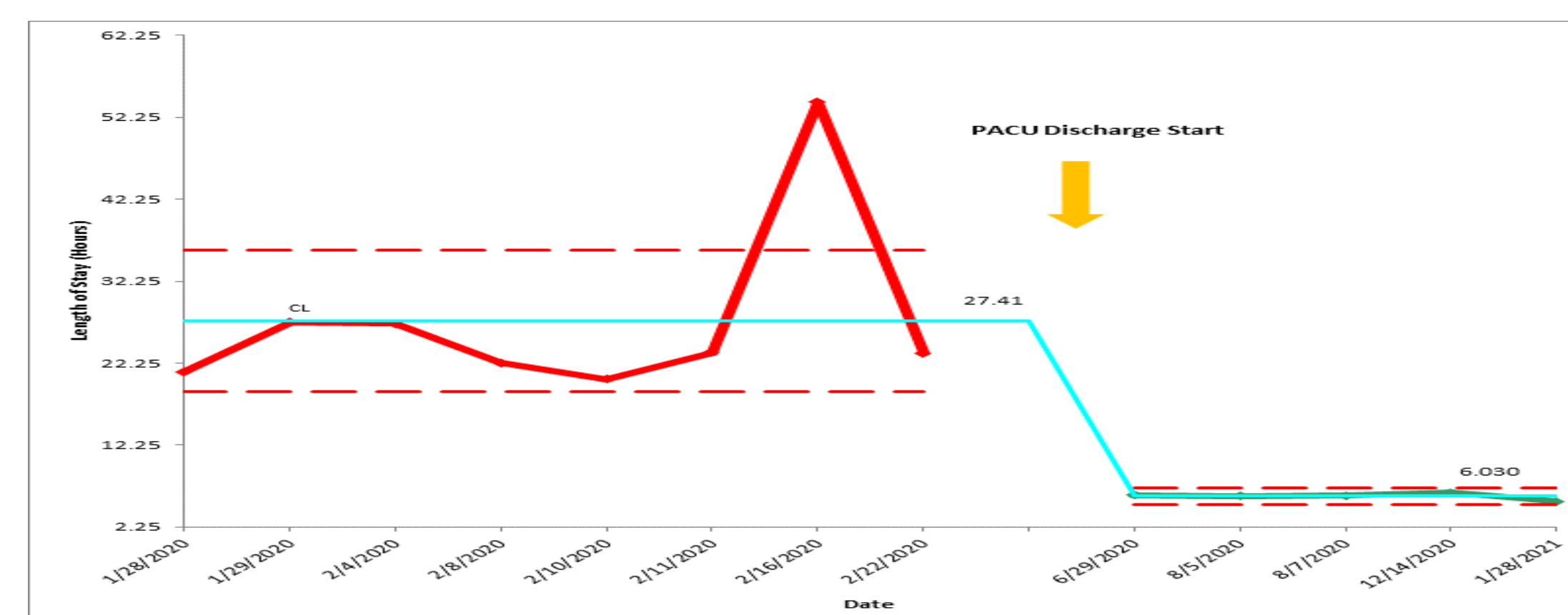
To implement a novel care pathway to discharge patients undergoing same day, unilateral mastectomy without reconstruction from the post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) while maintaining high quality outcomes and patient satisfaction.

Process of Implementation

- Following the leadership decision to initiate same day PACU discharge for eligible patients undergoing a mastectomy, a PACU nurse champion was identified.
- The nurse champion identified required process changes and collaborated with members of the interdisciplinary team to develop this novel care pathway.
- Enhancements included:
 - A new standard order set developed in collaboration with the surgical Advanced Practice Provider (APP)
 - Customized aspects of the electronic health record to clarify discharge materials for the patients
 - Collaborated with the Chief of Anesthesia to develop and disseminate a post-operative pain management protocol
 - Secured a dedicated physical therapy pager and space for patient evaluation

Statement of Successful Practice

- Since June 2020, all eligible patients (n=5) have been successfully discharged using the new care pathway.
- Mean length of stay decreased for this population to approximately 6 hours from the previous 24 hour inpatient admission



- Feedback from patients, surgeons, APPs, and nurses for this new pathway has been very positive
- Quality Metrics have not been impacted
- This novel care pathway has been successfully initiated for patients undergoing same day prostatectomy since January 2021

Implications for Advancing the Practice of PeriAnesthesia Nursing

- The successful implementation of PACU discharge mastectomy patients is the result of nurses leading collaborative innovation.
- As organizations across the country explore options to decrease length of stay, PACU nurses will play an important role in addressing strategic initiatives by embracing novel care pathways.

Next steps

- Initiate a new process to decrease the overall length of stay in the PACU for this population
- Surgeon notified when patient is ready for discharge
- Discharge orders written after MD evaluation
- Advance this care pathway to include patients scheduled for same day bilateral mastectomy without reconstruction

Contact Information:
 June Nichols BSN, RN
 jnichols2@bwh.harvard.edu