ASC Preoperative and Postoperative Guidelines

ASC Preoperative Care Guidelines

The learner understands the basic concepts of preparing a patient for surgery in an ambulatory surgery center. Clinical objectives for the preceptor in teaching new ambulatory surgery nurses (ASC) includes the following:

Upon completion of the module, the ambulatory surgery nurse will be able to:

1. Describe preoperative admission assessment
2. Identify critical risk factors in preoperative areas
3. Describe medication assessment
4. Describe anesthesia preoperative assessment

The preceptor’s role is to observe the learner and assess his or her skills and abilities related to care of the patient before surgery in an Ambulatory Surgery Center. The learner will:

1. Identify clinical practice standards
2. Identify admission criteria
3. Describe nursing preoperative admission assessment
4. Describe comprehensive and focused assessments
5. Describe and list critical risk factors for the ambulatory surgery patient
6. Identify needed supplies and equipment in preoperative areas in an ASC
7. Identify age considerations
8. Describe medication assessment and reconciliation
9. Describe preoperative RN responsibilities on the day of surgery
10. Describe pre-anesthesia assessment
11. Describe ASA Physical Status Classification System
12. Describe transfer of care requirements
13. Identify documentation requirements
14. Define discharge criteria
15. Develop a perioperative patient education plan
16. Assess barriers to patient understanding
17. Describe legal responsibilities, including discharge planning
18. Identify staffing needs based on patient acuity, age, type of anesthesia, etc.
19. Describe the value of cross training
ASC Postoperative Care Guidelines

The learner understands the basic concepts of caring for the patient following surgery in an ambulatory surgery center. Clinical objectives for the preceptor in teaching new ambulatory surgery nurses include the following:

Upon completion of this module, the ambulatory surgery nurse will be able to:

1. List the post anesthesia levels of care
2. Identify key points of ongoing patient assessment
3. Explain the concept of fast tracking.

The preceptor’s role is to observe the learner and assess his or her skills and abilities related to care of the patient following surgery in an Ambulatory Surgery Center. The learner will:

1. Describe the phases of post anesthesia care
2. Describe the transfer of care requirements to the PACU
3. Describe communication of information
4. Identify staffing needs based on the phase of care
5. Describe recovery phases
6. Describe assessment criteria in all phases of PACU care
7. Describe pharmacological interventions for PONV
8. Define pain assessment and management for pediatric and adult patients
9. Describe the use of anesthesia reversal agents
10. Describe discharge protocols
11. Define discharge criteria
12. Define the components of discharge teaching
13. Describe the rationale and components of follow-up phone calls
14. Define infection prevention strategies
15. Identify signs and symptoms of deep surgical wound infection
16. Define legal issues related to documentation of care and nursing assessments
17. Describe how an extended care unit functions
18. Identify and describe supplies and equipment use in pre/post areas in an ambulatory surgery center.