



### **Nurse Led Collaboration and Innovation:**

## Relieving In-Patient Bed Shortage by Creating an Extended Recovery Unit (ERU)

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# Background

- Increasing capacity challenges caused by COVID19 pandemic.
- As part of a capacity management plan, a Magnet-designated 171-bed community teaching hospital prepared to create an Extended Recovery Unit (ERU) for post-surgical patients.
- Perianesthesia staff engaged to support developing new structure.

# Objective

- Create an ERU that provides highquality, efficient care to surgical patients who meet the criteria for an expedited discharge home the morning after surgery.
- ❖ To develop a nursing pathway to guide the care of ERU patients while maintaining high patient experience scores.

### Process

#### **Staff Identification**

Perianesthesia nurses selected to temporarily staff and implement an ERU.

Permanent ERU nurses with inpatient surgical experience.

#### Collaboration

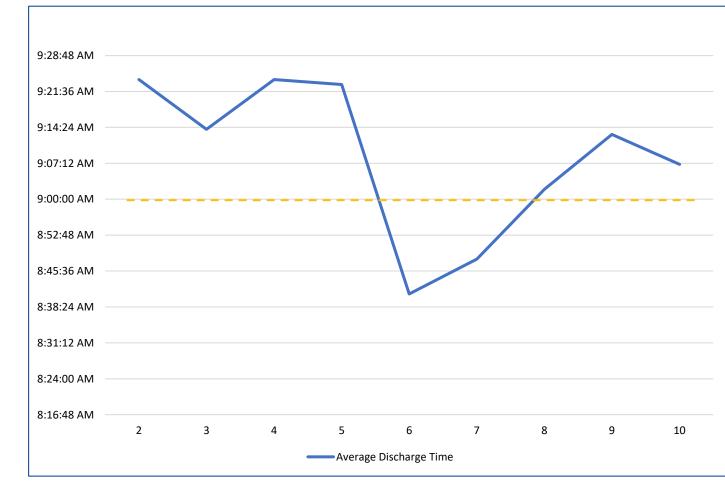
Collaboration with surgical teams, nursing from all phases of perianesthesia care, advanced practice providers, physical therapy, dietary, care coordination, admitting and IS.

#### **Care Model**

Goal: 6 patients overnight in PACU, discharge by 9am

Developing a process and resources that support standardized practice.

#### **Average Discharge Time**



#### **Average Discharge Time and Length of Stay**

Department	Hours Admission To Discharge	Avg. Discharge Time	Volume
ERU	22	9:22 AM	46
Inpatient	28	1:31 PM	476

### Outcomes

- In the first 3 months, the ERU reduced length of stay for its patient population by ≈6 hours.
- ❖ Average discharge time 9:25am with no OR holds caused by ERU.
- Patients report high level of satisfaction.

## Implications

❖ Implementing an ERU with perianesthesia nurses at the helm can provide post-op patients with high-quality care, and efficient early discharge home while relieving some of the pressures of bed shortages throughout the hospital.

### Next Steps

Continue to develop and expand the ERU in preparation for a future larger dedicated space.

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