Introduction

Previously, same-day surgical discharge instructions were handwritten by residents on generic fill-in-the-blank forms leading to inconsistent discharge instructions.

Residents started an initiative to create these standardized discharge instructions. These instructions were designed to improve documentation for post-operative instructions as well as enhance overall patient safety in an attempt to eliminate miscommunications with patients.

Methods

A retrospective chart review of all same-day laparoscopic cholecystectomies and lumpectomies over a six-months period at Abington Hospital (08/2018 - 01/2019) was conducted. Charts were reviewed for inconsistencies in dressing change instructions, activity instructions, pain medications, timeline to restart anticoagulation/anti-platelets, timeline to restart diabetic medications, need for follow up appointment and timeline for follow up appointment. Patients cross-referenced in the PDMP Database if discharged on narcotics.

Modified Discharge Instructions (Same-Day Surgery)

Since this project, patients who underwent same day surgeries (laparoscopic cholecystectomy and partial mastectomy) have received the updated discharge instructions. Standardized discharge instructions have expanded to also include laparoscopic hernia repair and diagnostic/therapeutic angiography/angioplasty.

Conclusion

Introduction of the standardized forms increased resident knowledge of same-day surgical discharge instructions and created a more comprehensive discussions of post-operative medication instructions and PDMP checking, overall improving patient safety. We are in the process of analyzing post-intervention data in order to expand this project to all same-day surgeries.