

STANDARD GUIDELINE: **Admission Criteria - Same Day Surgery**

Program Area: **Perioperative**

Section: **Surgical Unit/Same Day Surgery**

Reference Number: **CLI.6611.SG.003**

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Approved by: **VP - Acute Care & Chief Nursing Officer**

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PURPOSE:

1. Same day surgery can be safely performed on an outpatient basis when local, regional (spinal, epidural, nerve block) general or conscious sedation is the anesthetic of choice.
2. Same day surgery reduces waiting time for the patient and reduces the demand on hospital beds.
3. Same day surgery provides education to the patient about perioperative events and addresses the patient's questions and concerns about the perioperative experience.

DEFINITIONS:

Same Day Surgery (SDS) - Admitted day of procedure, stay does not exceed 24 hours.

Outpatient/Admit Surgery - Admitted day of procedure and requires hospital admission of one or more nights.

Surgical Waitlist Information Management (SWIM) - Enhances collaboration and the management of patients awaiting surgery while providing a real-time, province-wide view of the demand for surgical service.

In Patient Surgery - Admitted patient having surgery and needs to remain admitted to hospital.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The slating department schedules the SDS patient for surgery following Surgical Slating – Elective and Emergent (CLI.6611.PL.003).
- Designated elective surgical patients receive pre-op teaching in a pre-admission clinic (PAC), site specific. Elective surgical patients who are not seen at a pre-op clinic are provided with verbal and/or written information with instruction.
- All required per-procedure documentation (i.e. and any required diagnostic tests) is uploaded into SWIM.
- All surgical patients requiring anesthesia are seen by anesthesia prior to surgery.
- All patients must have a patient identification band and allergy band if applicable in place prior to entering the Operating Room (OR) theatre.
- All surgical patients must be fasting as per anesthesia guidelines with exceptions in emergent surgical procedures.
- All SDS patients receive education prior to arrival to make suitable arrangements for transportation upon discharge prior to surgery and that a responsible adult is required to stay with them for 24 hours post procedure. If not arranged, the surgical team reviews on a case-by-case basis to determine if the surgery takes place as scheduled.

PROCEDURE:

Complete the Pre-Operative Record and Same Day Surgery Checklist (CLI.6611.SG.003.FORM.01) confirming all documentation is present. This includes but is not limited to: signed consent, surgeon consult (history and physical), anesthetic consult, patient questionnaire and diagnostics tests if applicable. Review patient's history, check Advance Care Planning Goals of Care form (CLI.5910.PL.008.FORM.01) status, Falls Risk Assessment for Ambulatory Care Dialysis Same Day Surgery (CLI.5910.PL.008.FORM.01), allergies, and for risk of or confirmed Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA).

1. Check for any pre-operative orders.
2. Upon Patients arrival to SDS introduce self and verify the correct patient using two identifiers.
3. Determine if the patient has any communication impairment (i.e., blindness, hearing loss), is able to read and understand English, and Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability. Obtain an interpreter or alternate decision maker if required.
4. Explain the procedure and ensure that the patient agrees to treatment. Determine the patient's current level of understanding, anxiety level, and ability to answer questions regarding health history and the pending operative or invasive procedure.
5. Instruct the patient to remove all clothing, including undergarments, and to don a hospital gown with the opening in the back. Instruct the patient to remove hairpins, clips, wigs, hairpieces, piercings and makeup, including nail polish and acrylic nails. Have the patient don a disposable head covering (per ORNAC Standards).
6. Complete urine pregnancy test on required patients and document results on pre-op checklist. Complete blood glucose on diabetic patients and document results on pre-op checklist, inform anesthesia of any abnormal results.
7. Instruct the patient to remove all metal jewelry, including body piercings, and subdermal, transdermal, and micro dermal implants. For jewelry that cannot be removed, notify the practitioner performing the operative or invasive procedure and consider using alternative technologies (i.e., bipolar, ultrasonic). All belongings are placed in a bag provided by the site and labelled with patient identification.
8. Assist the patient with the removal of prostheses, including dentures; oral appliances; glasses; contact lenses; artificial limbs, eyes, and eyelashes; and hearing aids. Allow hearing aids to be left in place if the patient is required to follow instructions in the OR or procedure room.
9. Provide preoperative patient teaching, including an explanation of skin preparation, pain-control measures, and postoperative care.
10. Each site determines their physician's preference for hair removal. Hair removal to be done within two hours prior to procedure per protocol.
11. Ensure surgical site is marked appropriately prior to surgery as per Surgical Site Verification (CLI.6611.PL.007).
12. Apply antiembolism stockings or sequential compression device sleeves as ordered.
13. Ensure that the patient has a patent IV line and indwelling catheter, if ordered. Start IV fluid therapy as per the practitioner's orders.
14. Obtain the patient's vital signs prior to transporting the patient to the OR or procedure area. Inform anesthetist if any abnormal findings prior to entering theatre.
15. Review and complete the Pre-Operative Record and Same Day Surgery Checklist (CLI.6611.SG.003.FORM.01) with circulator nurse, to ensure that all patient information and documentation is complete and correct before transporting the patient to the OR/procedure area.
16. Receive post-op patients and follow protocol for Discharge Criteria.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

[CLI.6611.SG.003.FORM.01](#) Pre-Operative Record and Same Day Surgery Checklist

REFERENCES:

[CLI.6611.PL.007](#) Surgical Site Verification and Marking
[CLI.4110.PL.001.FORM.01](#) Consent to Procedure Treatment or Investigation-Bilingual
[CLI.4510.PL.001.FORM.01](#) Falls Risk Assessment for Ambulatory Care Dialysis Same Day Surgery
Cancer Care
[CLI.5910.PL.008.FORM.01](#) Advance Care Planning Goals of Care Form
NS/SU 5 Same Day Surgery Program (SDS)

[Elsevier Clinical Skills \(2025\): Preoperative Care \(Perioperative\)](#)

ORNAC (2023). Recommended standards, guidelines and position statements for perioperative registered nursing practice. ORNAC: Surgical Attire – Patient section 2.8.1