POST OPERATIVE CARE DAY SURGERY UNIT (DSU)

Date Issued: June 2000
Date Revised: August 2012
Review Date: August 2015
Authorised by: OGCCU
Review Team: OGCCU / DSU

POST OPERATIVE CARE IN DSU FOLLOWING LOCAL ANAESTHETIC

KEY WORDS
Local anaesthetic, DSU, vital signs

AIM
The appropriate nursing / midwifery care of a woman in DSU following local anaesthetic

KEY POINTS
1. Observations should be performed as often as indicated by the woman’s clinical condition.
2. All deviations from normal shall be referred to a medical officer. Documentation of the referral shall be made in the patient’s progress notes.

PROCEDURE
1. Collect the woman from recovery, noting any post operative orders.
2. Escort the woman to the DSU.
3. Record a full set of vital signs, respiratory rate, heart rate, temperature, oxygen saturations and blood pressure. Check and document any wounds, vaginal loss and the pain and nausea score in the Day Surgery Care Record MR 335.
4. Ensure the woman is warm and comfortable (in bed or lounge chair as appropriate).
5. Collect all documentation, note any discharge medications and send the medication chart to pharmacy if required.
6. Give the notes to the ward clerk to complete the filing. Once done, the notes are returned to the notes trolley.
7. Offer fluids and sandwiches.
8. Collect the woman’s clothes from her locker and return them to her.
9. Provide the woman with a post operative information sheet and discuss any post operative instructions.
10. The woman can be discharged once she has met the discharge criteria.