

MEDDAC Memorandum 40-34

Medical Services

Care of Same Day Surgery Patients

**Headquarters
U.S. Army Medical Department Activity
Fort George G. Meade
2480 Llewellyn Avenue
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-5800
4 June 2004**

Unclassified

SUMMARY of CHANGE

MEDDAC MEMO 40-34
Care of Same Day Surgery Patients

Specifically, this revision—

- o Changes the title of the publication from “After Hours Care of Same Day Surgery Patients” to “Care of Same Day Surgery Patients.”
- o Completely revises the publication.

Department of the Army
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* MEDDAC
Memorandum 40-34

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History. This is the first revision of this publication. It was originally

published on 19 March 2003.

Summary. This memorandum establishes policies and procedures for the care of Same Day Surgery (SDS) patients.

Applicability. This memorandum applies to Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Fort George G. Meade (MEDDAC) (Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center (KACC)). Specifically, it applies to all SDS staff, surgeons, anesthesia providers, and KACC medical officers of the day.

Proponent. The proponent of this memorandum is the Deputy Com-

mander for Clinical Services (DCCS).

Suggested improvements. Users of this publication are invited to send comments and suggested improvements, by memorandum, directly to Commander, US Army Medical Department Activity, ATTN: MCXR-DCCS, 2480 Llewellyn Ave., Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-5800, or to the MEDDAC's Command Editor by fax to (301) 677-8088.

Distribution. Distribution of this publication is by electronic medium only.

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* This memorandum supersedes MEDDAC Memorandum 40-34, dated 19 March 2003.

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Glossary

Chapter 1 Introduction

1-1. Purpose

This memorandum establishes policies and procedures for the care of SDS patients who are still in recovery within the facility after their surgeons have departed this medical treatment facility (MTF).

1-2. References

Related publications and referenced forms are listed in appendix A.

1-3. Explanation of abbreviations and terms

Abbreviations used in this memorandum are explained in the glossary.

1-4. Responsibilities

a. *The operating surgeon.* The operating surgeon is primarily responsible for the patient's postoperative care.

b. *The Chief, Anesthesia Service.* The Chief, Anesthesia Service will—

(1) Ensure that the appropriate dispositions of SDS patients are achieved before patients are discharged to home. Coordination will be accomplished with the Head Nurse, SDS.

(2) Together with the Head Nurse, SDS, ensure that the appropriate anesthesia and nursing support are provided to patients until they are safely discharged to home or transferred to the appropriate inpatient facility of the attending surgeon.

c. *The Head Nurse, SDS.* The Head Nurse, SDS will—

(1) Provide appropriate training to SDS staff regarding the provisions of this memorandum and will ensure the staff complies with its provisions.

(2) Together with the Chief, Anesthesia Service, ensure that the appropriate anesthesia and nursing support are provided to patients until they are safely discharged to home or transferred to the appropriate inpatient facility of the attending surgeon.

d. *Registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) assigned to SDS.* RNs and LPNs caring for SDS patients will stay within the guidelines of this memorandum, and will ensure that patients understand their discharge instructions, including directions regarding both routine and acute or emergent follow up needs.

e. *Providers and support staff.* Providers and support staff caring for SDS patients will communicate adequately and effectively with members of the health care team and the patients to ensure optimal patient care is given.

Chapter II Procedures for Care of SDS Patients

2-1. Identifying patients' needs for provider intervention

The RNs and LPNs caring for SDS patients will identify patients' needs for provider intervention by assessing the following:

a. Vital signs.

b. Onset, duration, location and intensity of pain, if any.

c. Mental status.

- d. Weakness.
- e. Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- f. Slurred speech or speech impairment.
- g. Nausea or vomiting.
- h. Heart palpitations.
- i. Cool, moist skin.
- j. Bleeding.

2-2. Emergent patients

When a patient's condition is emergent (that is, Code Blue), the SDS Charge Nurse will initiate all Code Blue procedures to ensure prompt treatment of the patient.

2-3. Non-emergent patients who require provider intervention

When the SDS Charge Nurse determines that a patient's condition is non-emergent but requires provider intervention, the surgeon and/or anesthesia provider will be contacted by telephone. For all surgical care, the SDS Charge Nurse will contact the attending surgeon or surgery resident utilizing the Skytel paging system by accessing the physician's roster located at the nursing station. If the attending surgeon or surgery resident cannot be contacted, the Charge Nurse will page the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Surgeon of the Day and initiate a DA Form 4106 (Quality Assurance/Risk Management Document).

2-4. Documentation of patient care

All care of SDS patients will be documented on Standard Form 509 (Progress Notes), which will be placed in the patient's chart.

2-5. Follow up care

The surgeon will coordinate all follow up patient care provided to the patient. Upon discharge, the SDS patient will be given instructions and emergency care contact information for problems or concerns occurring when KACC is closed. If the patient's condition warrants immediate attention after discharge, the patient will be instructed to go to the nearest emergency room for care.

Appendix A References

Section I Required Publications

This section contains no entries.

Section II Related Publications

A related publication is merely sources of additional information. The user does not have to read it in order to understand this publication.

Comprehensive Manual for Ambulatory Care, Continuum of Care 4-11, Assessment of Patients

1.8.4., published by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Section III Prescribed Forms

This section contains no entries.

Section IV Referenced Forms

DA Form 4106
Quality Assurance/Risk Management Document

Glossary

Section I Abbreviations

DCCS
Deputy Commander for
Clinical Services

KACC
Kimbrough Ambulatory Care
Center

LPN
licensed practical nurse

MEDDAC
U.S. Army Medical
Department Activity, Fort
George G. Meade

MTF
medical treatment facility

RN
registered nurse

SDS
Same Day Surgery

Section II Terms

This section contains no
entries.