NATIONAL OPERATING ROOM NURSING AUDIT (NORNA)

ELEMENT 5: **CONTINUUM OF CARE**

5.9 CARE OF PATIENT AT THE RECOVERY BAY

1. INTRODUCTION

Postoperatively, the patient is wheeled from the Operating Room to the recovery bay for continuous monitoring of vital signs until patient is stable and allowed to be sent back to the ward.

Postoperative recovery starts when surgery and delivery of anaesthesia stops, most often followed by transfer to a recovery suite or critical care environment (Nilsson, Gruen, & Myles, 2020).

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 To monitor and provide continuous care to patient post operatively when in recovery bay.

2.2 To assist the patient to return to a safe physiologic level post operatively.

2.3 To provide patient's comfort during the immediate post-operative period in the recovery bay.

2.4 To ensure accurate and complete documentation of immediate post-operative checklist.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1	Design	:	Direct observation of nurses monitoring patient at the recovery bay.
3.2	Setting	:	Recovery Bay
3.3	Inclusion criteria	:	All post operative patients nursed at the recovery bay.
3.4	Exclusion criteria	:	i. Post- operative ventilated patients ii. Post – Operative Local Anaesthesia patients
3.5	Population	:	Recovery Nurse
3.6	Sample design	:	Convenient sampling
3.7	Sample size	:	50% of Recovery Nurses at Operating Theater (OT).
3.8	Frequency	:	Twice per year
3.9	Duration	:	2 months
4.0	Instrument	:	Check list (E5 AF 5.9 Pind.1/2026)

4. STANDARD

100% compliance to the standard of monitoring and providing continuous care to patients in the recovery bay.

5. DEFINITION OF OPERATIONAL TERMS

NO	TERMS	DEFINITIONS
1.	ANAESTHESIA	A method of induction used to induce loss of feelings, pain and sensation prior to surgery. • **General Anaesthesia (GA)** General anaesthesia is a state of controlled unconsciousness. Is treatment with medication to make you completely unconscious. • **Regional Anaesthesia** Regional Anaesthesia is used to numb only the portion of body that will undergo the surgery. • **Local Anaesthesia (LA)** Local anaesthesia is an anaesthetic agent given to temporarily stop the sense of pain in a particular area of the body.
2.	RECOVERY SCORE	Assessment three criteria: consciousness, airway and movement. (American Society of Anesthesia: Post Anesthesia Recovery Score)
3.	BROMAGE SCORE	Bromage score is an assessment of the intensity of motor blockade
4.	PAIN SCORE	A numerical or descriptive assessment of a patient's pain level after surgery or a medical procedure. It helps healthcare providers evaluate pain intensity and determine appropriate pain management strategies.

6. WORK PROCESS

Structure
1. Recovery nurse 2. The nurse has knowledge and competent in monitoring patient at recovery bay 3. There is standard Operating Procedure for Care of Patient at Recovery Bay 4. Warming devices: 4.1 Warming Blanket 4.2 Radiant heater 5. Safety patient 5.1 Side rails 5.2 Wheel transportation trolley 6. Monitoring 6.1 Suction apparatus 6.2 Vital sign monitor 7. Intravenous fluid/ blood product 7.1 Drip stand 8. Receiver for vomitus

Process
1. Receive information about patient from Anesthetist or Anaesthesia nurse 1.1 Type of anaesthesia 1.2 Type of surgery 1.3 Complication (anaesthesia/ surgery) 2. Verify patient identification 3. Maintain airway pattern 2.1 Positioning 2.2 Suction PRN 4. Administration oxygen 5. Keep patient warm and comfortable

6. Implement safety measures to prevent patient fall
    6.1 Raise side rails
    6.2 Lock wheels of OR transportation trolley
7. Monitor patient
    7.1 Monitor vital sign
    7.2 Oxygen Saturation
    7.3 Bleeding tendency (Dressing/ Drainage/ Irrigation/ Pad/ Urine Colour)
8. Care of intravenous infusion or blood product transfusion (Blood used/ Unused)
9. Care of patient elimination (Urine Output/ Vomit).
10. Documentation
    10.1 Vital sign
    10.2 Bleeding
    10.3 Intake/ Output
11. Document and record (if any incident)
12. Access for grading
    12.1 Recovery score
    12.2 Pain score
13. Inform anesthetist to review patient
14. Inform ward/ unit nurse to fetch patient when ready and has been discharged by the anesthetist.
15. Check vital sign patient while ward nurse arrives in reception area.
16. Hand over patient to ward/unit nurse (SSSL 2.0-PRE-DISCHARGE CHECK)
    16.1 Post-op Notes/ case notes/ GA Form/ Imaging
    16.2 Specimen
    16.3 Blood Product (used/ unused) Drainage tube
    16.4 Intravenous fluid
    16.5 Catheter
    16.6 Others e.g.: amputated parts, placenta and etc.
    16.7 Check post-operative pain order
17. Passing Over post-operative pain relief order/ PCA pump

Outcome
1. Patient receives continuous care after post operative period. 2. Associated effects of anaesthesia and surgery are detected early and a proper action taken. 3. Accurate and complete documentation in the patient medical record and pre-discharge form. 4. Patient is comfortable and stable at recovery bay before sent to ward.

7. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION FOR CARE OF PATIENT AT THE RECOVERY BAY

Indicator	Percentage compliance to the standard of monitoring and providing continuous care to patients in the recovery bay.
Rationale	Implementation and continuous care to patient post operatively at recovery bay.
Definition	Recovery bay - is section in the Post Anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU) where patients are monitored post-surgery until stable for transfer or discharge. Recovery nurse - monitors and stabilizes patients in the PACU after anesthesia.
Criteria	**Inclusion:** All post-operative patients nursed at the recovery bay **Exclusion:** i. Post operative patient ventilated ii. Post operative patients local anaesthesia
Numerator	Total conformance of items
Denominator	Total number of items – Total number of items marked as NA
Formula	$\frac{\text{Numerator}}{\text{Denominator}} \times 100\%$
Standard	**100%**
Data Collection	1. **Where:** Data will be collected at the Recovery Bay. 2. **Who:** Data will be collected by the NORNA committee in hospital. 3. **How to collect:** Audit Form (E5 AF 5.9 Pind.1/2026). 4. **How frequent:** 2 Months (twice a year) 5. **Who should verify:** All data must be verified by the Head of Nursing.

8. AUDIT FORM

NATIONAL OPERATING ROOM NURSING AUDIT	**VERSION 8/ Pind.1/2026**
ELEMENT 5 : PERIOPERATIVE CONTINUUM OF CARE	
TOPIC : 5.9 CARE OF PATIENT AT THE RECOVERY BAY	**DATE: 15 JAN 2026**
DOCUMENT NO : E5 AF 5.9 Pind.1/2026	

OBJECTIVES

1. To monitor and provide continuous care to patient post operatively when in recovery bay
2. To assist the patient to return to a safe physiologic level post operatively.
3. To provide patient comfort during the immediate postoperative period in the recovery bay
4. To ensure accurate and complete documents of immediate post operative checklist.

STANDARD : 100% compliance to the standard of monitoring and providing continuous care to patients in the recovery bay

Date of Audit : .....

Locality : .....

Auditor : .....

Auditee : .....

N.B. Instructions for Auditors

1. To tick [√] at appropriate column.
2. S/ T/ D indicate soft skill/ technical skill/ documentation respectively.

S/N	ITEM	SOURCE OF INFORMATION	YES	NO	N/A
T1	Receive information about patient from Anaesthetist or Anaesthesia nurse 1.1 Type of anaesthesia	Listen & Observe Nurse			
	1.2 Type of surgery	Listen & Observe Nurse			
	1.3 Complication (anaesthesia/ surgery)	Listen & Observe Nurse			
T2	Verify patient identification.	Listen & Observe Nurse			
T3	Maintain airway pattern	Observe Nurse			
T4	Administer oxygen	Observe Nurse			
T5	Keep patient warm and comfortable	Observe Nurse			
T6	Implement safety measures to prevent patient fall 6.1 Raise side rails	Observe Nurse			
	6.2 Lock wheels of OR transportation trolley	Observe Nurse			
T7	Assess the patient's consciousness	Observe Nurse			
T8	Monitor patient 8.1 Monitor vital sign	Observe Nurse & Check written document			

	8.2 Saturation	Observe Nurse			
	8.3 Bleeding (Dressing/ Drainage/ Irrigation/ Pad/ Urine Colour)	Observe Nurse			
T9	Care of intravenous infusion or blood / blood product transfusion. (Blood used/ Unused)	Observe Nurse			
T10	Care of Patient Elimination.	Observe Nurse			
D11	Documentation 11.1 Vital sign	Observe Nurse and check written document			
	11.2 Saturation	Observe Nurse			
	11.3 Bleeding	Observe Nurse			
	11.4 Intake/ Output	Observe Nurse			
D12	Document and record (If any incident)	Observe Nurse and check written document			
D13	Assess for grading 13.1 Recovery score	Observe Nurse and check written document			
	13.2 Pain score	Observe Nurse and check written document			
S14	Inform anaesthetist to review patient.	Listen & Observe Nurse			
S15	Inform the ward/unit nurse to fetch the patient once they are ready and have been discharged by the anaesthetist.	Listen & Observe Nurse			

T16	In recovery, check the patient's vital signs before transferring them to the airlock	Observe Nurse			
T17	Hand over patient to ward/unit nurse (Pre-Discharge Check- 17.1 Post-op Notes/ Medical record/ GA form/ Imaging	Observe Nurse			
	17.2 Vital Sign	Observe Nurse			
	17.3 Specimen	Observe Nurse			
	17.4 Blood Product (used/ unused)	Observe Nurse			
	17.5 Drainage tube	Observe Nurse			
	17.6 Intravenous Fluids	Observe Nurse			
	17.7 Catheter	Observe Nurse			
	17.8 Other items, e.g., amputated parts, placenta, etc.	Observe Nurse			
T18	Passing Over post-operative pain relief order/ PCA pump.	Observe Nurse			

AUDIT REPORT

(Please [√] the appropriate box)

Rating:

Criteria	Item	Conformance	Non conformance	Not Applicable
Technical	25			
Documentation	7			
Soft Skill	2			
Total	**34**			

Calculation: _____ X 100% = _____

REMARKS:

Auditor (name and signature) : …….

Calculation: $\frac{\text{Total conformance of items}}{\text{Total number of items-Total number of item NA}}$ X 100%

9. REFERENCES

Nilsson, U., Gruen, R., & Myles, P. S. (2020). *Postoperative recovery: The importance of the team*. *Anaesthesia, 75*(Suppl. 1), e158–e164. https://doi.org/10.1111/anae.14869