

28 February 2024

Orthopaedic Discharge Policy

I require the policy and/or procedure, pertinent to the discharge of an orthopaedic patient from the Regional Centre for Orthopaedic Surgery at Musgrave Park Hospital Belfast

The procedure for discharging an orthopaedic patient following an inpatient or day case admission is as follows:

Nurse led discharge pathways are in place for medically and surgically fit patients. A discharge checklist is completed by the nurse on the Nursing Admission booklet.

Where a patient requires Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) assessment this is carried out prior to discharge. If the MDT assessment has indicated that a patient requires a new or increased Package of Care (POC) or inpatient rehabilitation bed, transitional forms are completed by the Medical, Nursing and Allied Health Professional (AHP) teams. Referral is then made via the Social Work Team.

Discharge medications are provided to the patient (or NoK as appropriate) at the point of discharge, to cover a short period of up to 28 days depending on the medical team's prescription. Patient education in the administration of medications including Enoxaparin injections is provided.

A copy of the Discharge Letter is provided to the patient (or NoK as appropriate) in addition to a Pharmacy Discharge Prescription Note for day cases discharging from the Day Procedure Unit, **OR**, a Hospital Discharge Note if discharging from an inpatient admission, which the patient is instructed to take to their GP

Where equipment, suture or wound clip removals are required the Ward makes a referral via the Call Management System prior to discharge. A letter is also provided to patients, as clinically required, for their attendance with the District Nurse or Treatment Room Nurse.

For Hip and Knee replacement patients a contact card is provided with telephone contact numbers of the Outcomes Nursing Team in MPH should patients have any post-operative concerns on discharge. Details of discharging ward telephone contact numbers are also provided with advice on wound care.

Follow up review appointment, where instructed by the patients Surgeon, is sent to patient via post. This is usually 6-12 weeks post operatively.