

CARE OF THE PREOPERATIVE PATIENT

OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote patient/significant others' understanding of care related to their surgical regime.
2. To minimize anxiety.
3. To ensure that patient is in optimal health status for surgery.
4. To minimize risks of infection and injury.

PROCESS STANDARDS:

1. Explanation of specific pre/post operative procedures/equipment will be given to the patient/significant others such as:
 - a. Cough, Turn, Deep breathe
 - b. Splinting incision
 - c. Dietary status
 - d. Respiratory care with Intermittent positive pressure breathing (IPPB) when indicated
 - e. Refrain from smoking during the perioperative period
 - f. Activity post-surgery and any specialized post-op instructions including surgical site infection (SSI) prevention
2. Assessment
 - a. History and Physical
 - b. Physiological
 - c. Psychosocial
 - d. Barriers to education
3. Pre-op check sheet/Parent Family Teaching Guide will be completed and placed on chart.
4. Patient will be encouraged to communicate questions, concerns.
5. Prepare surgical site as prescribed utilizing clippers/depilatory agents rather than razors, antimicrobial agents (surgical bath) etc.

OUTCOME STANDARDS:

At the time prior to surgery:

1. The patient/significant others will communicate/demonstrate understanding of the pre/post operative regimen.
2. Anxiety regarding surgery will have been minimized.
3. The patient will have been thoroughly evaluated for any surgical and anesthetic risks.
4. Infection and injury risk will have been minimized.

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HAVE I DOCUMENTED:

- * Preoperative instructions
 - Cough, turn, deep breath
 - Splinting of incision
 - Ambulation
 - Dietary status
 - Respiratory care with IPPB when indicated
 - Recommendation of smoking cessation with referral per patient desires
 - Activity post-op and any special post-op care including SSI education
- * Surgical bath as ordered
- * Use of antiembolism stockings, sequential compression devices (SCDs) and similar devices as ordered
- * Communication of fears
- * Preoperative checklist complete and on chart

Reference:

1. Swearingen, P. Manual of Medical Surgical Nursing Care, 6th ed. (2007). *Chapter 1: General Concepts in Caring Medical-Surgical Patients*. Accessed 11/9/2009 [Mosby's Nursing Consult - Reference Books](#). St. Louis: Mosby Elsevier.