

Breast Cancer Day Cases: Impact of Introducing Electronic Patient Records (EPR) on Day Case Discharge Rates in a Single-Centre DGH

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Aims

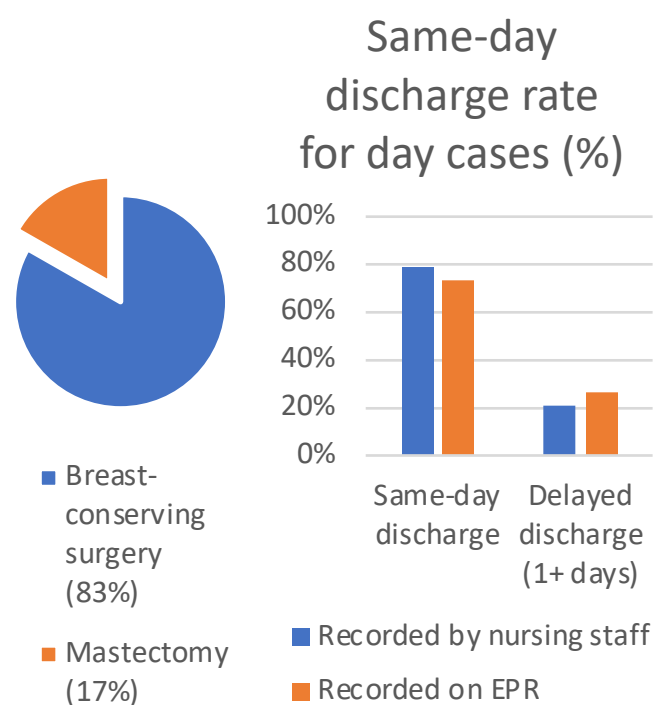
- Addition of 'Getting it Right First Time' (GIRFT) data to the 'model hospital' database has allowed national review of Breast Unit performance across the UK
- Introduction of Electronic Patient Record (EPR) required staff to develop their knowledge of data recording and correct coding of clinical events.
- One area where this became apparent was in day case discharge rates.
- After April 2022 (introduction of EPR), day case discharge rates fell by 10% on model hospital records without any obvious change in clinical practice, warranting further investigation.

Methods

- All breast cancer operations performed at a single Trust April 2022-March 2023 were reviewed.
- EPR was used to ascertain if patients were discharged the same date and time as coded onto EPR.
- Type of surgery performed was recorded and if overnight stay (ONS) was planned or unplanned.

Results

- 400 patients had breast cancer surgery with 314 patients listed as day case (79%).
- 333 patients had breast-conserving surgery (83%) and 17% underwent mastectomy.
- Nursing records indicated a 79% day case discharge rate
- Late discharges on EPR completed up to 24 hours later resulted an apparent day case discharge rate of 73% - a difference of 6% from the true rate.



Conclusion

The need for accurate timely data recording has been highlighted and concordance of coding with actual discharge date is necessary. Raising awareness of this process within the multidisciplinary team will allow unit performance to be measured more accurately.

References

NHS England (n.d.). *Getting It Right First Time - GIRFT*. [online] Getting It Right First Time - GIRFT. Available at: <https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/>.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2020). *Overview | Perioperative care in adults | Guidance | NICE*. [online] www.nice.org.uk. Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng180>.