OBJECTIVE
To provide a guideline for the safe postanesthetic discharge of premature infants and former premature infants.

SCOPE
All anesthesia providers.

MANAGEMENT OPERATING DIRECTIVE
Preterm infants, born prior to 37 weeks gestation, are predisposed to postanesthesia hypoventilation, apnea, periodic breathing, cyanosis and bradycardia. This risk may extend until 50 weeks postconceptual age.

PROVISIONS
1. All preterm infants less than 50 weeks postconceptual age will be evaluated for an overnight stay following anesthesia. Based upon the anesthesia provider's discretion, the length of admission may be adjusted.
2. All full-term neonates less than one (1) month of age.

REFERENCES

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY
Maria Zestos, MD, Chief of Anesthesiology
Nasser Durham, MD, Director of Same Day Surgery

APPROVAL SIGNATURE(S)

Title

Date 11/17/10

Title

Date 11/17/10

REVIEW DATE
September 15, 2013.

Sponsor: Required, Department or Person that has authorization over directive.