

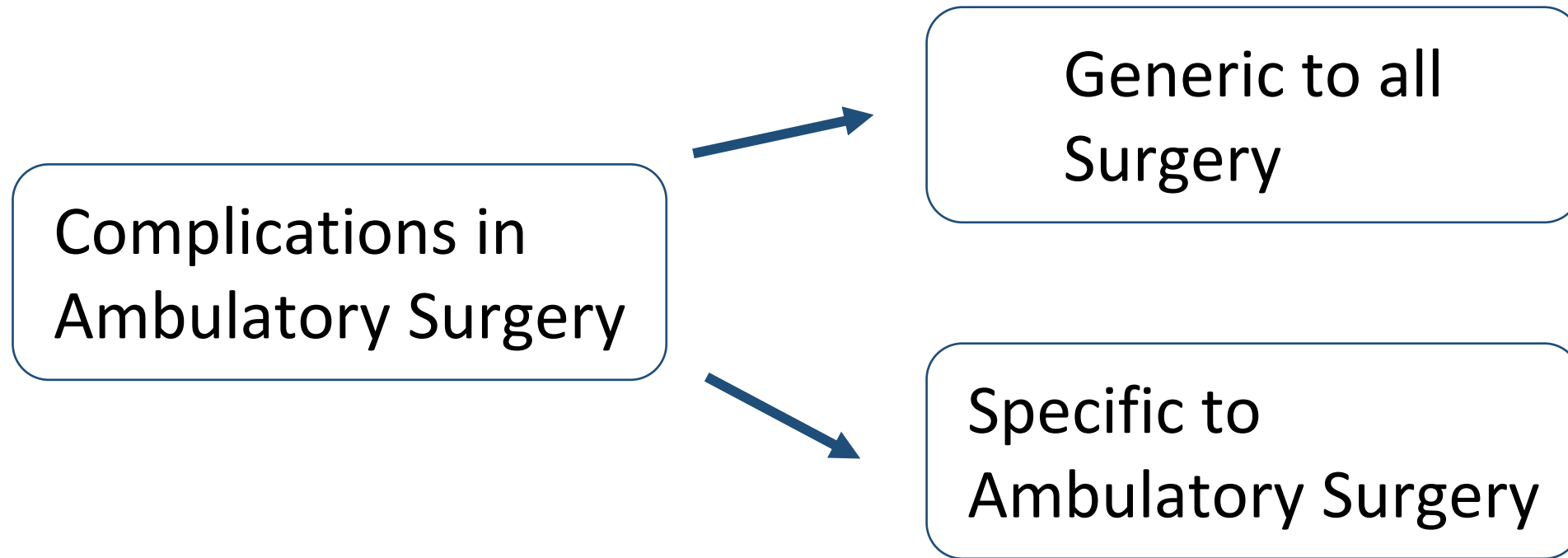
# Streamlining the Ambulatory Surgery Pathway

## How to Manage Complications

November 24 2023

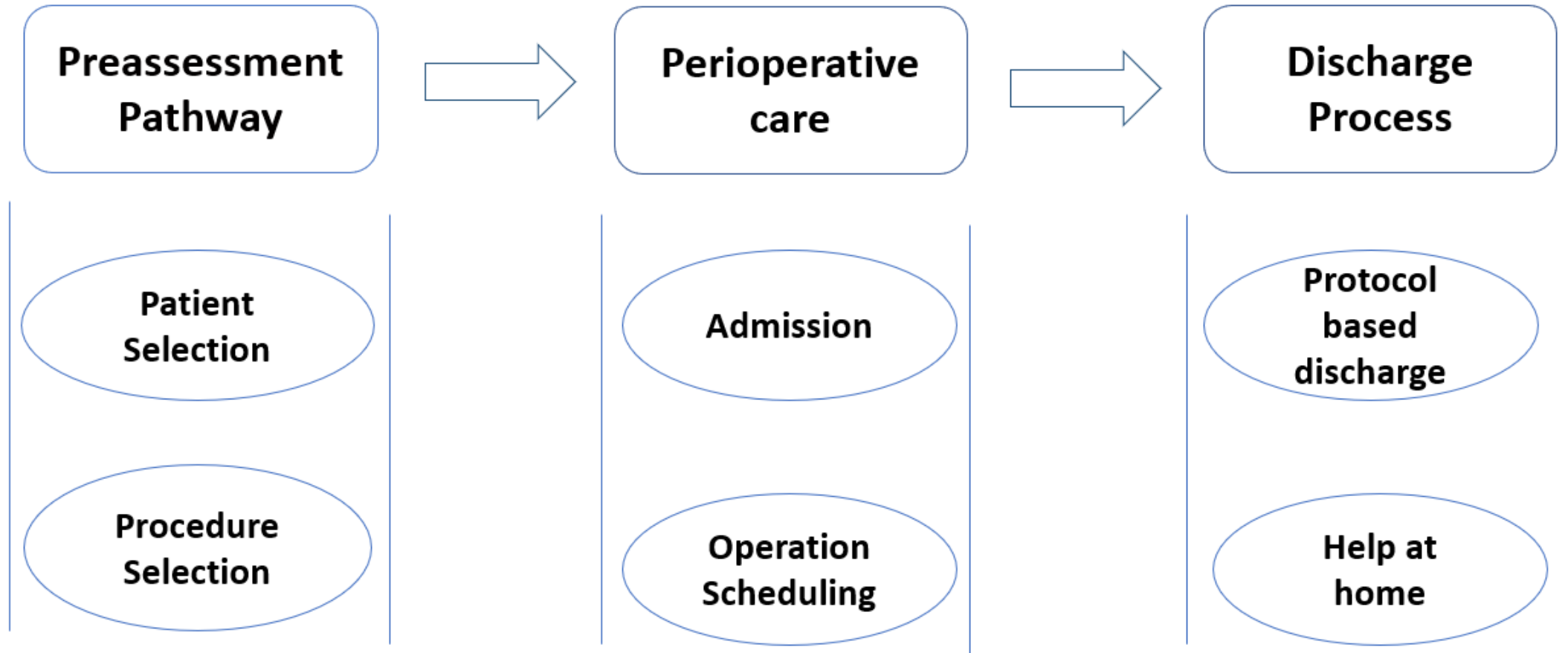
Douglas McWhinnie  
Immediate Past President IAAS





**Ambulatory Surgery is a Pathway, not a Procedure**

# Patient Pathway



# Pathway failure

## Unplanned Overnight Admissions

Negative impact on patient experience.

Increase pressure on inpatient beds

Increase costs for the Hospital



# Unplanned overnight admissions

## Overall Rates

Influenced by case-mix

Wide spectrum of procedures

Target < 3%

Minor procedures

Target < 1%

Influenced by Default to Day Surgery

## Procedure Specific Rates

Expected Day Case Rate	Unplanned Admission Rate
> 75%	< 2%
50-75%	< 5%
< 50%	< 10%

# Unplanned overnight admissions

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## **Often Multiple Causes**

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Pain

PONV

Urinary retention

Bleeding

Late return from theatre

Surgical drains

Social

Clinical observation

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## ***Identify Areas for Improvement***

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***List Planning***

***High-Risk  
Patients***

***Admission  
Avoidance***

# Protocol-Based Discharge



Verma R, Alladi R, Jackson I et al. Day case and short stay surgery. *Anaesthesia* 2011;**66**:417-34.

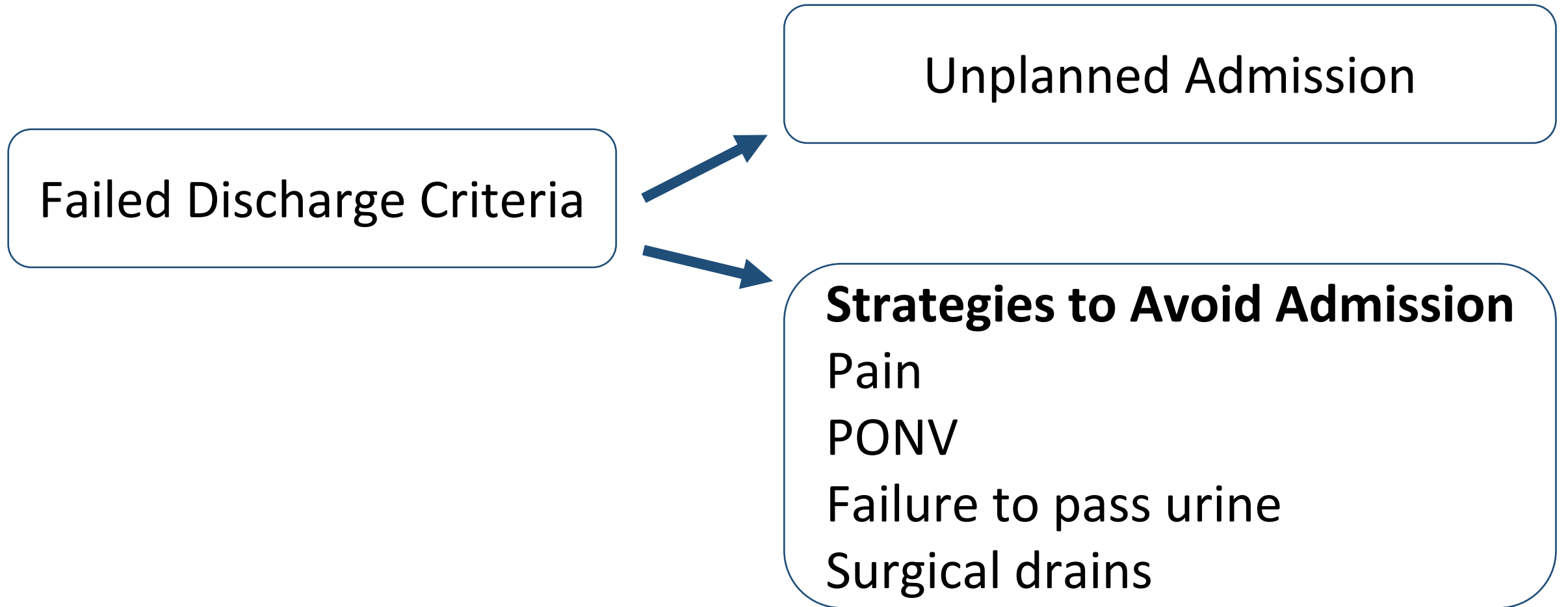
Anaesthesia

Journal of the Association of Anaesthetists of  
Great Britain and Ireland

## Criteria for discharge include:

- Vital signs stable
- Orientated
- Pain controlled
- Minimal PONV
- Minimal wound bleeding
- Oral analgesics supplied
- Understands medication
- Cannula removed
- Ability to dress and walk
- Written & oral instructions
- Passed urine

# Protocol-Based Discharge





# Post Operative Pain Management

## Preoperative

### Plan pain management

Type of surgery

Pain threshold

Age

Expectations

## Peroperative

Multimodal Analgesia

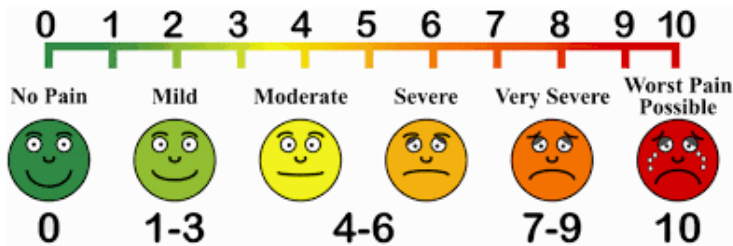
LA wound infiltration

Nerve blocks

## Postoperative

Pain scores

Pain management protocols



# Post Operative Nausea and Vomiting

Preoperative

Identify high-risk patients

Peroperative

Give prophylactic anti-emetics

Postoperative

## Multimodal Management

Good oxygenation and normal BP

Good pain control

IV fluids if dehydrated.

Anti-emetic early

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## PONV Rescue

Rescue protocol

Different class of anti-emetic

Discharge home to recover

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# Failure to pass urine

No need to pass urine before discharge unless high risk patient

If high risk patient fails to urinate then post operative urinary retention protocol required

## High Risk

Men >50

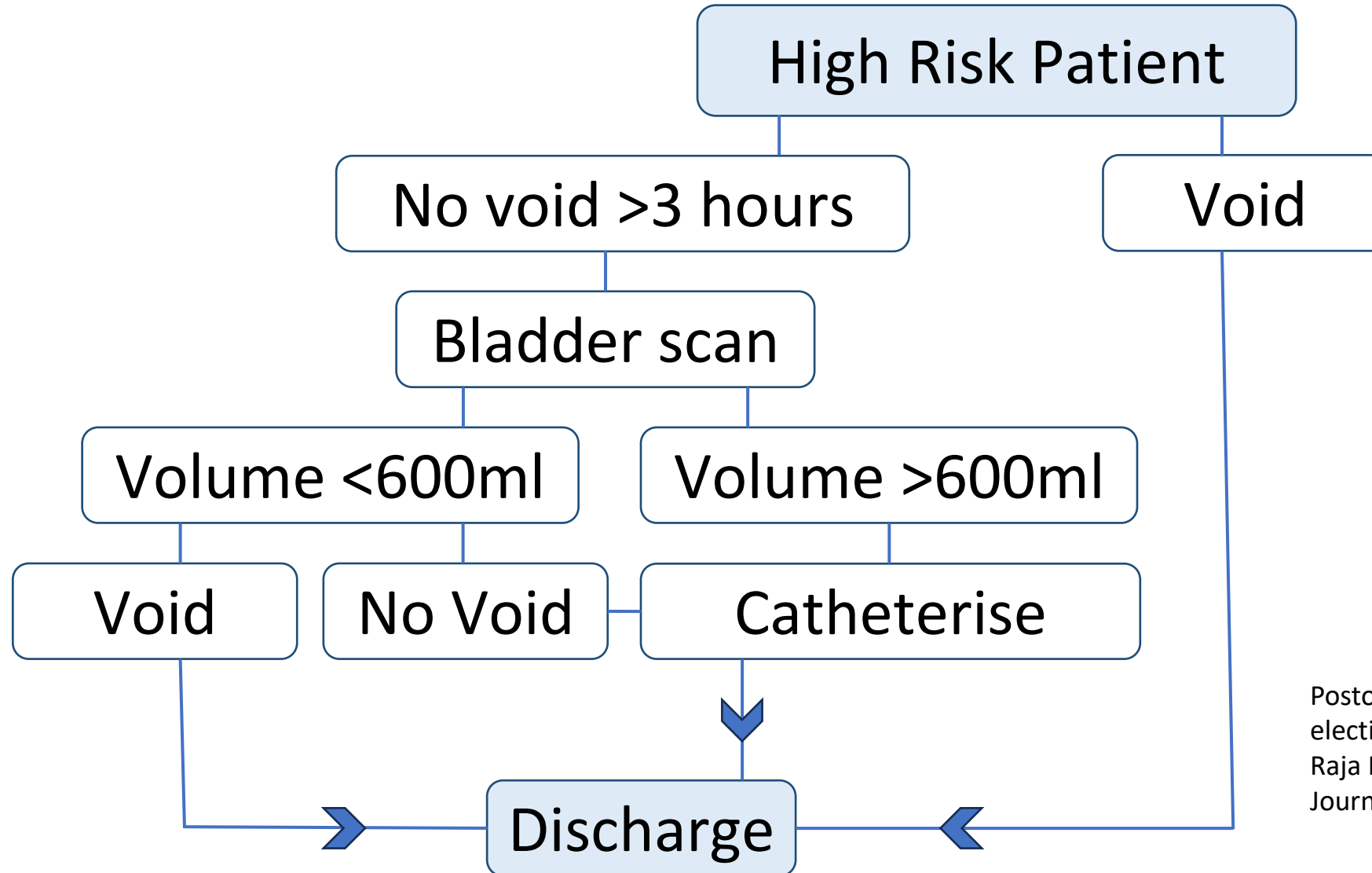
Inguinal hernia repair

Ano-rectal surgery

Prostatic procedures



# Post operative urinary retention protocol



Postoperative Urinary retention in elective day case surgical patients. Raja MH, Dunphy L, McWhinnie D, Journal One-Day Surgery. 2017:27,4.

# Surgical Drains

Uncommon in Ambulatory Surgery

Lap Cholecystectomy for possible bleeding or bile leak

Remove before discharge if no drainage

Routine use indicates surgical incompetence

Gurusamy K et al. Routine abdominal drainage versus no abdominal drainage for uncomplicated laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Cochrane Database 2013, DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD006004.pub4



# Pathway Failure Readmission to Ambulatory unit

Without return to operating theatre

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Target 1% to 2%

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< 24 hours or < 30 days

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Common Causes

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Postoperative Pain

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Wound-Related Complications



# Pathway Failure

## Readmission to Ambulatory unit

Return to operating theatre

Bleeding or haematoma

Wound or internally

Abscess



Haemorrhage

Primary

Intraoperative

Reactive

Within 24 hours

Secondary

7-10 days postoperatively

# Ambulatory Surgery is a Pathway Not a Procedure

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## Pathway Failure

Unplanned overnight admission

Readmission

Return to theatre

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Thank You !

Děkuji !