Introduction: Patients' compliance with postoperative instructions can be marginal[1]. A quality assurance audit was undertaken with institutional ethics approval to look at an ambulatory patient population's comprehension and compliance with information and instructions given in the Perioperative period of an ambulatory procedure. Patient satisfaction of their perioperative care was also assessed.

Methods: Over a 4 month period, patients were contacted 24-48 hours after their procedure by an anesthesiologist and were asked 17 questions. A minimum of 3 attempts was made to contact the patient. Inquiries included their comprehension and compliance with pre and post operative orders, the incidence of common postoperative complications, circumstances of their discharge and accompanying personnel home and overnight was assessed.

Results: 456 patients were called of which 299 patients were successfully contacted and interviewed Mean age was 50 years, 51% were male 40% were female. The majority (83%) had their procedure under general anesthesia. 96% stated they had adequate preoperative instructions, while 10% stated they did not receive adequate post operative instructions. 9% had pain greater than 5/10 at discharge and 4% thought their discharge pain medications were inadequate. 26% had nausea/vomiting in the first 24 hours. 4% felt they were rushed out of hospital. One patient went home unescorted. 11% had no caregiver staying overnight. Almost 3% patients had returned to work within 48 hours of their surgery. 4% had driven a car within 24 hours of their procedure. 90% felt they had adequate information and were satisfied with their experience.

Discussion: Patients understood postoperative instructions when they received them. In our facility, we need to be proactive in mitigating pain and nausea and also ensuring surgical and analgesia postoperative instructions are adequate. Discharge criteria and a patient's perception of home-readiness [2] need to be aligned particularly when few have a caregiver staying overnight. We need to continue to advocate for a responsible adult to accompany the patient home and care for them overnight[3].