

HEALTH SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

WINTHROP-UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

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PROJECT: Reducing “Average Length of Stay” (ALOS) in Ob-Gyn

INTRODUCTION: When a patient remains hospitalized beyond the recommended DRG’s ALOS, it reduces the number of beds available for other patients awaiting admittance into the hospital. Many times the increase in the ALOS is medically justified and the patient’s health status determines this. However, in some cases, the ALOS may not be medically justified. Waiting for a bed disrupts patient flow and turnaround time, but also creates a stressful situation for the patient and family, decreases patient and physician satisfaction and, ultimately, impacts the hospital’s bottom line.

ASSIGNMENT: The intern selected to work on the “ALOS” project will investigate the, “what, where, when, who and how” of this situation. This project will involve extensive investigation i.e. obtaining and reviewing hospital data, interviewing department heads and staff, internet searches, physical assessment of the facilities, etc. The intern will propose corrective action(s).

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Collaboratively, the intern will meet with the department heads involve and present (power point) the “what, where, when, who and how” of ALOS and the group collaboratively will discuss recommendations for corrective action(s).

IMPLEMENTATION: With the approval and support of the department heads, the intern will implement the corrective action.

CONCLUSION: Measurable outcome to be presented for discussion and review.