EVOLUTION OF THE ANESTHESIA PREOPERATIVE EVALUATION CENTER (APEC)
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**Background:** The number of delays and cancellations for surgeries were high due to a lack of a standardized process for pre-screening patients prior to their procedure. A decision was made to open our department, the Anesthesia Preoperative Evaluation Center (APEC), to screen and evaluate surgical patients day(s) in advance.

**Objectives:** The goal of the APEC is to identify clinical issues ahead of time and optimize them prior to surgery to promote patient safety and satisfaction. Ultimately, to prevent delays and cancellations on the day of surgery.

**Process:** A perianesthesia questionnaire capturing potential clinical issues was created to standardize and simplify patient screening. Phone screening is the predominant method of collecting patient information. Education materials regarding surgery preparation were given to patients and family to review ahead of time. These education materials were made available at APEC, online and in surgeons’ offices.

**Success:** APEC continues to optimize patient’s readiness for surgery and to improve patient satisfaction. Delays and cancellations rates have decreased while utilization of APEC’s services has increased. Our 2009 data shows that patients who were evaluated by APEC have an 82 percent less chance of being canceled.

**Implications:** Early intervention and optimization of patient’s clinical issues along with patient education contributes to a positive surgical experience for the patient and the family.