IMPROVED PRE-OPERATIVE PROCESS FOR SURGICAL PATIENTS
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Background Information:
- Problems were identified related to consents, unreported abnormal diagnostic and lab results, IVs, NPO status, hand off, belongings and incomplete pre-op checklist.
- After the Lean Project, the process was streamlined, unnecessary steps eliminated, more efficient ways of patient preparation implemented.

Objectives:
- Timely, complete and accurate patient readiness for surgery
- Eliminate delays in surgery start times
- Improve patient comfort and safety

Implementation:
- Consents obtained as soon as order is written and surgeon has spoken with patient and family
- Labs are done the night before surgery
- After one IV attempt, Floor Nurse defers to OU, OU defers to Anesthesia
- Sending unit stores patient belongings
- Pre op checklist used by Sending and Receiving RNs to give hand off communication
- ICU transports and monitors patient in Pre-op holding until direct hand-off to the Anesthesiologist and OR RN.

Successful Practice Identified:
- Reduced delays in obtaining consents especially from DPOA
- Primary Nurse has time to report and act upon abnormal tests results
- Veins are preserved, less patient discomfort from numerous attempts
- Reduced incidence of lost patient belongings
- Use of pre op checklist ensures complete patient preparation
- Improved safety of ICU patients who used to be transported by BLS/ACLS certified non critical care trained OU nurses

Positive Outcomes Achieved:
- Improved efficiency in patient preparation for surgery
- Patient and staff satisfaction

Implications for Perianesthesia Nurses:
- Enhanced patient safety
- Staff satisfaction with streamlined process