THE PREANESTHESIA CLINIC: A TEAM APPROACH TO IMPROVE THE CHILD AND FAMILY SURGICAL EXPERIENCE AND ENHANCE PATIENT OUTCOMES
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Introduction:
Preanesthesia clinics have historically demonstrated an effective means of preparing patients / families for surgery and decrease unnecessary surgical cancellations or delays. The Preanesthesia Clinic (PAC) is comprised of an Anesthesiologist, 2 Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) and 3 Registered Nurses (RN). The PAC has incorporated strategies to improve the preoperative process and effectively screen, assess and prepare children and their families prior to surgery. Collaboration between the clinic team and surgical partners has demonstrated effective outcomes to improve the preparation of the child and family for surgery, improve patient flow to optimize surgical starts and increase family satisfaction. This presentation will highlight the success of the collaboration between the team members to develop a successful preoperative program.

Objectives
1) Describe the prescreening and triage process utilized by the team to effectively prepare the child and family for surgery 2) Outline the preoperative assessment pathway 3) Explain the telephone assessment.

Method
Prescreening and triage methods are incorporated to review the patient’s medical, surgical and anesthesia history to determine potential risk factors prior to the child’s surgery. Collaboration between the APN /RN / Anesthesiologist and surgical partners ensures that preoperative testing is completed prior to the surgery date. Patient/ family satisfaction survey demonstrate positive outcomes.

Conclusion
The collaboration between the PAC team members and surgical programs has demonstrated effective outcomes through the development of the preoperative surgical pathway. The implementation of the preoperative telephone consultation has been an effective method to obtain and provide information to patients and families prior to surgery.