Background: Handoff report from inpatient units to PACU and In & Our Surgery were not occurring in a timely manner – nurses waiting on hold for extended times or floor nurse not available for report. This delayed transport of the patient to the preop holding area and potentially delayed the surgical procedure.

Objectives: Institute a new process for handoff report that would decrease waiting time for report and provide inpatient nurses with a larger window within their patient care routine to provide report.

Process of Implementation: An interdisciplinary team collaborated to develop a process for dictated report. A pilot study was done on two nursing units. Written instructions on the process for first cases and subsequent cases were developed. The nurse educators provided education in the perianesthesia setting and on the pilot units. A tracking log was developed to record deficiencies for follow-up by management. One perianesthesia nurse could listen to report on all inpatients, transcribe information to the report tool for preop nurses, and follow-up with calls for clarification or updates as needed. After an initial pilot the process will be rolled out to all inpatient units.

Statement of Successful Practice: Use of the dictated report has reduced time needed to get patients to the preop area from inpatient units. There are fewer interruptions of patient care routines to provide or listen to report.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Efficient patient flow in the perianesthesia area reduces delays and increases satisfaction for patients, nurses, and physicians. Fewer interruptions in patient care routines reduce the potential for error.