

I-STAT USE IN THE PREOP – GET ME TO THE OR ON TIME

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Select patients require laboratory testing day of surgery to guide care. Drawing blood and sending it to the laboratory created delays going to the operating room. Use of I-Stat testing in Preop unit could help reduce delays.

Project goal was to implement I-Stat testing in preop for PT/INR and potassium to decrease wait times for results. This would decrease delays getting patients to the operating room and maintain patient throughput.

Implementation included purchase of equipment, wiring meter docking station, developing orders in electronic record, and training of nursing staff. Management purchased one I-Stat meter with docking station and acquiring electronic connections for docking station. The nurse educator worked with information technology staff to develop appropriate ordering information and documentation in electronic health record. Initial training was done through Ancillary Testing Laboratory to meet accreditation guidelines.

Turnaround time for laboratory testing was 30 to 45 minutes. I-Stat meter testing reduced the wait time to approximately 5 minutes, getting results to the physician for review faster, and decreasing delays in getting patients to the operating room. Success using the meter for these tests has led to I-Stat testing for additional chemistry studies.

Implications for advancing practice include new skills for nursing staff, quicker lab results, appropriate use of lab resources, and decreased waiting time for patients.