

DON'T BE A FOOL AND NOT USE YOUR TOOL

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Hand off communication between the pods in the Same Day Surgery unit and the Operating Room was inconsistent. In order to revitalize the outdated forms and process for hand off report, a team approach within the Shared Governance group was used to implement a new process.

The Perioperative Educator worked with the Shared Governance group to improve the effectiveness of communication between caregivers, reduce the risk of errors and improve patient safety. Some of the goals addressed, spoke to the reduction of unnecessary tasks and a seamless transfer of patient information through the Perioperative process. In addition, cost containment would be a benefit.

Improved communication between the pods in Same Day Surgery, as well as the Operating Room, was addressed at a Shared Governance meeting in both areas. Feedback from unit nurses was obtained at staff meetings. Changes to the hand off report sheets were made based on collaborative feedback.

Condensed and standardized report sheets were placed in all pre-operative charts. Nurses in the pods were encouraged to use the new report tool on all patients, in order to maintain 100% compliance.

Clear and concise reports increased productivity and enhanced time available for direct patient care. The initial time invested translates into long term success through reduction of cost and concentration on value added activities.