

EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC PAIN IN PRE-OP CENTER LEADS TO BETTER OUTCOMES FOR PAIN CONTROL AFTER SURGERY

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Pre-operative Assessment Consultation and Evaluation (PACE) Clinic noted an increase in number of patients with chronic pain going to surgery. Surgical history confirmed patients with chronic pain typically had a more difficult time with management of pain post-operatively. Earlier identification and triaging of patients in pre-op clinic may offer an opportunity to develop a pain regimen prior to surgery.

PACE clinic identifies patients with chronic pain by Healthquest® and patient interview. Healthquest® is a computer generated health questionnaire patients take prior to pre-op to assist in identifying and triaging patient for further optimization prior to surgery. A patient with “chronic pain” is flagged in the system for further assessment. The goal was to develop the present system and assist providers in plan of care prior to the day of surgery.

Implementation included working with acute/chronic pain service, and psychiatry to have a better understanding of each specialty in relation to this patient population. The Healthquest® was updated to elicit more information and flag these patients for further assessment. Anesthesia interview template was changed to be more detailed in the patient’s baseline of pain and current treatment regimen.

Changes to template of anesthesia progress note, Healthquest® and process of notification to pain consult service led to a dramatic increase in referrals, which led to pro-active plan of care for these patients prior to the day of surgery.

Implications for advancing practice include the importance of taking a proactive role in the triaging of patients and the benefits of collaboration with other providers.