

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: A PEDIATRIC SURGICAL GUIDE

Team Leaders: Donna Voldan, BSN, RN, CAPA
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

Team Members: TeNeasha Billingsley, BSN, RN, Sara Donovan, RN, CPN, Alicia Hajba, BSN, RN,
Michelle Levay, BSN, RN, CPN, Jackie Mason, BSN, RN, Julie Meyer, BSN, RN,
Megan Sumser, BSN, RN, CPN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Pediatric PACU noticed that the families of children scheduled for surgery did not have any literature or educational instruction regarding the expectations of surgery. There were inconsistencies in NPO status, appropriate medications the day of surgery, arrival time, and how to prepare a child for surgery. The families were often given the Adult Surgical Guide which was not applicable to the pediatric population.

OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:

The goal was to provide the essential information to patients and families preoperatively, in order to help them navigate the surgical experience.

The goal was for the guide to provide parents with necessary tools to enhance their experiences and reduce anxiety.

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

The group decided to create a pediatric appropriate surgical guide to address inconsistency and miscommunication of preoperative information. The Pediatric PACU nurses reviewed other pediatric hospital surgical guidelines and the pertinent information provided to their patients and families. The group collaborated with Anesthesia and Child Life for their input and feedback. The Market Research Department compiled a list of survey questions. The questions and guide were sent to 470 families to also receive feedback and constructive criticism in order to finalize the guide.

STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:

The Pediatric Surgical Guide is now approved, printed, and ready for the next phase of the process, which is distribution. The parents' responses to the questions from Market Research provided great insight and were instrumental to the final edition. The guide will provide advanced knowledge and reduce surgical anxiety for patients and families. The patients and families will have knowledge of the resources that are available to them.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING:

Perioperative nursing care is expedited throughout the surgical process. Creation of a new Pediatric Surgical Guide for patients and families has allowed nursing to streamline information for an easier navigation through the surgical experience.