

**THE VALUE OF THE VISIT STUDY**  
**QUANTIFYING THE VALUE OF THE PREOPERATIVE VISIT WITH A NURSE PRACTITIONER**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Previous literature from our group has identified the impact of the preoperative clinic visit in reducing clinical issues the day of surgery, the current study quantifies all areas of impact, including nonclinical issues that significantly impact patient centered outcomes as well as downstream efficiencies.

Gaps in the preoperative process were identified as patients presented to the preoperative evaluation with knowledge deficits, lack of understanding, no anticoagulation plan, and medication and allergy lists that were outdated.

**OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:**

The purpose of this study was to identify the type and quantity of pertinent information that nurse practitioners assessed for the first time. This new clinical information is often critical for the safe, efficient, and cost effective care of patients.

**PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:**

Over a three-month period, using an electronic database, nurse practitioners recorded new findings, omissions, corrections, and narrative data related to the patient that may impact the planned surgery. These data points were distributed over multiple clinical and nonclinical categories which included issues pertaining to operating room (OR) booking, medications and allergies, laboratory testing, cardiac and respiratory status, and other specific patient concerns. Appropriate descriptive statistical analysis was performed.

Over 1100 submissions of individual patients were entered into the database, with 2318 findings presenting for the first time. This represented 35 entries per day, and average of 2 per patients. Approximately 30-40% of the patients seen daily had a new finding.

**STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:**

This study showed that a multidisciplinary clinic identifies gaps in the preoperative process, adds value to patient safety, quality of care, and operational efficiency.

Many of the findings are a near miss, and the intervention of a preoperative visit mitigated the risks.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING:**

The study findings should provide information about the preoperative process, the essential assessment elements, and contribute to the comprehensive care of the patient. A standardized *UPSTREAM* preoperative checklist may assist this process; none have been found in the literature to date.