

**IS THIS PATIENT READY FOR ANESTHESIA?
EMR REVIEW + INTERVIEW CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

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Background Information: It is common practice to evaluate patients in advance of surgery to determine readiness and optimization for anesthesia and the surgery itself. At St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, patients receive anesthesia for reasons other than surgery, including diagnostic imaging, radiation therapy, and invasive procedures. Throughout the Nursing Surgical Services department, patients have experienced cancellations and delays that often could have been prevented with proper preparation.

Objectives of Project: In August 2015, we began a prescreening process for patients in the diagnostic imaging area and select patients in the radiation therapy area as a pilot program to determine our primary objectives of:

- reduce the number of cancellations and delays
 - reducing fasting periods of our already nutritionally deficient patients
- increase the satisfaction of these patients and their families
- better utilize our anesthesia, nursing, and diagnostic resources

Process of Implementation: Data was collected by interviewing stakeholders, surveying parents, and closely studying the current process. Commonalities were identified and processes developed to close the gaps for a more effective process. An electronic document was developed to serve as the communication tool for all to utilize. The process received approval from Nursing and Clinical leadership. All affected departments were educated on the new process including Nursing Surgical Services, Anesthesia, outpatient clinics, patient scheduling department, and the Family Advisory Council. Space to conduct the electronic record review and patient/family interviews was obtained.

Statement of Successful Practice: After one month, data confirmed the process to be impactful. We are now evaluating the process itself in order to determine the best methods depending on the type of patient being screened and overall needs of the department. The process has provided an opportunity to establish communication processes between anesthesia and NSS that were in need of improvement

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: While prescreening patients prior to anesthesia is not a new concept, the overarching concept is to be ever vigilant in looking at data to determine opportunities for improvement and then utilizing best evidence to make the necessary enhancements.