

## **T MINUS 15 MINUTES: A PERI-OPERATIVE COUNTDOWN TO SAFETY**

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**Background Information:** First-case delays in an Operating Room (OR) can have a negative impact for an institution and cause dissatisfaction for surgeons, anesthesiologists, health care providers and patients. Delays also lead to a decrease in patient satisfaction. Data was collected from November 24, 2014 to January 6, 2015 on all first-case presurgical patients. It was identified that only 39% of our first-case surgical patients were ready for the OR at the scheduled time. A strategy was required urgently to improve our first-case on time starts.

### **Objectives of Project:**

1. Identify the barriers to achieving patient 'ready for transport' 15 minutes before scheduled OR start time.
2. Identify process improvements to increase nurse's role in contributing to OR first-case on time starts.
3. Implement practice changes to improve efficiency, safety, quality and celebrate success.

**Process of Implementation:** A multidisciplinary task force including all key stakeholders reviewed the current process, conducted a literature review and strategized on methods of improvement. Utilizing Kotter's 8 Step Change Model, we engaged the team members, shared data with the staff, identified reasons for delay, and set realistic goals. We educated the entire Presurgical Staff on the importance of first-case on time starts, and shared monthly data to support this initiative. We defined delays for staff, we created a Presurgical Center (PSC) RN to OR RN handoff sheet, started a daily charge nurse huddle between OR charge nurse and PSC charge nurse, we incorporated patient escort department to help with transport of patients, we changed the workflow of our OR escorts, and we changed nurses' shifts.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** The results from this ongoing task force have improved and sustained our first-case on time starts into the OR from 39% to 67% ready for transport within an 8 month time period.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** This nursing initiative created a new level of accountability for all team members to work together with the common goal of getting patients ready for surgery "15 minutes" prior to scheduled surgery time. This significantly improved first-case on time starts. This has decreased waiting times for patients,

increased patient satisfaction, increased OR efficiency, improved patient safety and unified the team.