

PEDIATRIC PERIOPERATIVE SURGICAL HOME

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Background Information: Historically, pediatric outpatient surgery patients at Akron Children's Hospital (ACH) were seen by an Advanced Practice Provider (APP) prior to their scheduled surgery. This visit occurred two hours before the surgery was scheduled. This APP visit was not best practice, especially for children with comorbidities. This practice placed patients at risk for unnecessary cancellations and family dissatisfaction. In 2015, with the opening of the new Outpatient Surgery Center (OSC), a structured pediatric PSH was initiated.

Objectives of Project: The objective of the project was to modernize Akron Children's Hospital's approach to the perioperative care of surgical patients.

Process of Implementation: A PSH multidisciplinary committee, led by the medical director, was formed. A collaborative team approach was established for the pediatric patient. Initially the service began for the OSC only and then expanded to include all outpatient surgeries by the end of 2018. The patients' appointments were within 30 days of their scheduled procedure and included a complete history and physical by the APP, identification of necessary clearances, a visit by Child Life specialists, and surgery preparation instructions by a registered nurse (RN). An anesthesiologist is available for consult during the appointment. Surgeons were notified of the addition of the PSH appointment and workflow changes.

Statement of Successful Practice: The PSH provides earlier patient preparation time, reduced rushed 'morning of surgery' assessment and clearances, improved efficiency and patient and surgeon satisfaction.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Efficiency and cost effectiveness along with quality care demonstrates Akron Children's Hospital's concern for advancing the practice of Pediatric Perianesthesia nursing.