

We've Got Spirit! - Pre- and Post-Op In-Patient Visits

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Background Information: The mission at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center is to heal, to teach, to discover. As a method to incorporate patients and families in our mission, the OR and the PACU nurses developed a Spirit Team that involved members from both departments visiting pre- and post-operative surgical inpatients.

Objectives of Project: To create a connection with surgical patients and their families. To educate both the patients and families, as well as the inpatient nurses caring for the patients. To identify any safety concerns related to medications and pre-existing conditions. To answer questions. To reduce lost patient belongings. To improve patient and employee satisfaction.

Process of Implementation: A Spirit Team reference guide was developed by the Spirit Team Council to assist the nurses during their inpatient visits. Inpatients scheduled for surgery the next day were identified on the surgical schedule and nurses from the OR and/or PACU visited the patients in their hospital rooms. Information was shared with the patients, families, and floor nurses regarding the patients surgery. During these visits, the nurses identified patient needs or concerns and elevated their findings to the surgical team. Documentation of the visit was recorded in the patient's electronic medical record. The visiting nurses kept a log of the patients visited, as well as any identified concerns as a way to seek methods of improvement.

Statement of Successful Practice: Due to the Spirit Team initiative, we have seen decreased inpatient cancellations, identified numerous safety concerns, developed relationships with our inpatient population and floor nurses, as well as decreased the incidents of lost patient belongings.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Developing a relationship with surgical patients has shown to decrease patient and family anxieties, improve patient satisfaction, increase quality and safety, as well as be an avenue for patient and family education.