

## **Pediatric COVID/COLDS Scoring Tool: Safe Surgical Outcome**

Team Leader: Andrew J. Meyer MD FASA

Akron Children's Hospital, Akron, Ohio

Team Members: Jill Smith MSN APRN CNP, Tara Wright MSN RN CPN

**Background Information:** Akron Children's Hospital is one of the largest integrated children's health care delivery systems in the country. We see patients from all 50 states and over 15 countries and perform approximately 20,000 surgical cases annually across multiple campuses. The Perioperative Surgical Home (PSH) prepares over 10,000 patients annually for elective surgical care. The COLDS scoring tool is used when a child has a respiratory illness to determine their risk of perioperative respiratory adverse events (PRAEs) such as laryngospasms and bronchospasms. This tool is used to determine if surgery should be cancelled or to proceed with the procedure.

**Objectives of Project:** The Covid-19 pandemic stopped all elective surgeries at our organization. When returning to full OR case capacity, the PSH team was tasked with identifying patients that had been prepared for surgery prior to closure and determine how to proceed with remobilization of the organization's OR. There was a need for reliable evaluation, triage, and safe rescheduling of surgery for patients who currently or previously had Covid-19. The existing COLDS tool was modified to a COVID/COLDS tool.

**Process of Implementation:** The existing best practice COLDS scoring tool, was modified to assist with evaluation, triage, and return to OR after COVID-19 illness. The tool was optimized to meet changing COVID guidelines, clinical, and patient/family needs. Staff education focused on progressive knowledge of COVID signs and symptoms, testing workflow, and adaptations of the COVID/COLD scoring tool and how it would be used. Surgery patients were tested for Covid 72-hours prior to surgery. Patients testing positive, were cancelled and received a phone call 20 days from positive test. The COVID/COLD score was obtained, and rescheduling of surgery was determined.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** The implementation of the COVID/COLDS tool allowed us to safely determine surgical date, without increased OR cancellation rate and without increased rate of perioperative respiratory adverse events.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** Healthcare professionals can use existing best practice tools and modify them to meet novel population health needs of patients and healthcare organizations. The benefits of having a fully integrated perioperative care system also helps in adapting best practice clinical tools in a timely and efficient manner.