Neurosurgery Recovery Communication Flow Meetings

**Purpose:** PACU and Neurosurgical ICU charge nurses meet daily to discuss flow of neurosurgery patients, the recovery room and plan of action for potential ICU boarders post-operatively in the PACU.

**Implementation:** PACU charge nurses and neurosurgery ICU charge nurses meet each afternoon in Patient Placement Department to discuss the plan for ICU transfers and discharges along with the number of patients expected to require ICU care. Daily meetings allow for review of “Hold Data” trends, monthly workplans with assigned tasks, review of communication flow and efficiency of transfer orders. A patient placement specialist communicates number of available beds for ICU transfers and assists with placement of overflow neurosurgery patients in other critical care areas.

**Evaluation:** Face to face meetings between the PACU and neurosurgery ICU charge nurses has improved communication between the areas due to the structured guidelines and standards. Advanced knowledge of the ICU’s daily bed status has allowed for better planning for post-op patients and is critical to staffing of the PACU. Daily afternoon bed planning sessions are successful. Unnecessary boarding of neurosurgery patients in the PACU has been avoided due to ability place overflow patients elsewhere. Offering shadowing in each others divisions has promoted improved relationships.