Title: Surgical Cancelations: A Six Month Review of Elective Extended Stay Cancelations

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Introduction: It is critical for Pre-Op Clinic nursing staff to constantly analyze practice in an attempt to provide optimal pre-operative assessments which minimize the potential for surgical cancelations.

Identification of the problem: Surgical cancelations distress and inconvenience families, interfere with Operating Room efficiency, and add to the overall cost of care delivery.

Purpose of the Study: To identify potential nursing practice changes in the Pre-Op Clinic that may influence the overall surgical cancelation rate.

Methodology: A review of Pre Anesthetic Evaluation Form, the daily OR registration sheet, and anesthesia records were reviewed to obtain cancelation data, including the total number of scheduled and canceled cases over a six month period. A tracking tool was created to identify canceled procedures, the service involved, patient age, timing of and reason for cancelation, American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) status, and whether the procedure was rescheduled.

Results: No surgical cancelations were attributable to omissions in nursing pre-operative work-up. Illness was responsible for the majority of surgical cancelations.

Discussion: Few studies have looked at surgical cancelation rates and causes. Our review of the literature yielded no studies that examined surgical cancelations in the pediatric population.

Conclusion: Families may benefit from additional health promotion directed towards prevention of acute illness in the perioperative period. A teaching tool was devised for distribution at the preoperative visit.

Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research: Research is needed on all aspects of surgical cancelations to identify practice changes that could potentially decrease surgical cancelation rates.