Purpose:

Our Peri- Anesthesia Care Unit’s layout is divided into several areas which are specific to preoperative holding and post anesthesia recovery. The nurses that staff these areas are trained to take care of both pre and post patients. When the volume of OR patients ready to come out to recovery exceeds the number of staffed bays available on the post op side, a resourceful solution is required to keep from placing the OR on hold. Staff in the preoperative holding areas is pulled to the post anesthesia area to open more bays and relieve the pressure from the OR.

Description:

There is one “air traffic controller” that takes calls from all of the ORs and assigns recovery room beds. When the situation arises that post anesthesia recovery is running out of staffed bays, this person calls the lead charge nurse. This person oversees the day to day operations of the pre and post op areas. This lead charge nurse is able to assess the staffing needs of all areas, take staff from the least busy area, and redistribute them to the post anesthesia care unit to open more bays and keep OR throughput constant.

Outcomes:

The OR has not been put on hold in close to 2 years now. This used to be a common daily occurrence. The staffs are now able to function at a high level in both the pre and post operative areas.