PREOP: Where First Case On Time Starts Really Begin...A Kaizen Event

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With the onset of many changes in preoperative nursing, it became increasingly difficult to prepare patients for the OR for first case on time start. Since the day of surgery process begins in the preop area, perceptions were that Preop was the limiting factor in attaining this goal.

The primary objective of the project was to improve first case on time starts. Secondary to this goal came standardization of the preop nursing process.

During a 3 day Kaizen process improvement event, a multidisciplinary team met to discuss current state of practices in Preop and to implement an improved future state process that would facilitate preparation of the preoperative patient for an on time operating room start. At the event’s culmination, a new standard work process for the preop RN was instituted, staff was educated in a 4 hour group session and the unit was cleaned and reorganized. Areas for improvement were targeted, presented to senior leadership and metrics were established for measurement of success.

Goal metric for Preop RN readiness met and sustained >90% for 3 consecutive months. On time starts not consistently improved.

Standardized process insures continuity of care in a safe, efficient manner for every patient.