Standardization of Handoff Reporting in Same Day Surgery

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Background:
Inconsistencies in hand-off reporting and concerns about patient safety in Same Day Surgery (SDS) provided the impetus to develop a standardized communication tool.

Objective: To ensure patient safety in the perioperative arena by standardizing our nursing practice through incorporation of ASPAN Standards and Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goals.

Process: A hand-off report form was developed in collaboration with all staff members working in the SDS unit. Prior to implementation, the new tool was piloted, revised and approved by our Unit Council. Staff meetings were held to disseminate and inform all involved staff working in Phase I, Phase II, and the Operating Room, of the new hand-off report tool.

Success: A standardized handoff report now accompanies each patient throughout the peri-operative process.

Implications: Patient safety is supported through utilization of a standardized communication tool when delivering hand-off reporting for our patients within Same Day Surgery.