The Impact of Implementing an Epic ERAS Pathway to Improve Nursing Documentation Compliance

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Background
• In 2013, an ERAS program was implemented in the colorectal service
• In 2018 ERAS has expanded to include cardiac, liver, pancreas, urology, plastics, thoracic, head and neck, sarcoma
• A need for a standardized method of documentation and recognition of enrolled patients was identified
• With the implementation of an electronic health record, documentation of ERAS variables became challenging and compliance decreased
• Challenges included difficulty identifying ERAS patients and recording outcomes
• The rollout of EPIC created difficulty in identifying ERAS patients and documenting outcomes

Purpose
• Ensure documentation compliance of all ERAS variables
• Identify patients enrolled in ERAS protocol
• Educate staff on documentation in the clinical pathway
• Audit documentation and provide individual feedback to staff

Implementation
• An electronic pathway was developed in EPIC to allow for standardized documentation
• Banners and icons were created in EPIC to identify patients on ERAS protocol
• Staff were surveyed after initiation of pathway to determine gaps in knowledge regarding ERAS pathway documentation
• Education was developed using staff feedback and implemented through presentations, tip sheets, and bedside support
• Reviewed documentation outcome data to audit compliance

Findings/Outcomes
• Patients are easily identified with the ERAS banner and icon
• Outcome data from pre- and post- EPIC roll-out showed improvement in documentation compliance
• With the electronic pathway implementation, documentation compliance improved for the following variables: clearfast, hibiclens, and antibiotic bowel prep
• Results from staff surveys identified knowledge gaps to allow for targeted education

Implications
• Improved documentation compliance with ERAS protocol
• Increased staff knowledge of the ERAS pathway
• Increased staff knowledge of documentation in ERAS pathway
• Improved staff engagement with the ERAS protocol

Outcomes
• Patients are easily identified with the ERAS banner and icon
• Outcome data from pre- and post- EPIC roll-out showed improvement in documentation compliance
• With the electronic pathway implementation, documentation compliance improved for the following variables: clearfast, hibiclens, and antibiotic bowel prep
• Results from staff surveys identified knowledge gaps to allow for targeted education

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