

FIRST CASE ON-TIME START INITIATIVE

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A significant amount of delays in first case start times became apparent to staff and leadership. Delays at the beginning of the day often result in need for overtime, dissatisfaction of patients, staff and physicians. A case beginning after 7:35am is considered a late start. Due to this problem a collaborative initiative was launched in pre-operative area to identify the main causes attributing to delays. We implemented a strategy to decrease the delays and achieve an on time start rate of 55% or higher. Staff RN's identified a delay reason for every case entering the operating room.

Data was analyzed and the top ten delay reasons were identified: (1) The surgeon late arrival (2) The surgeon is speaking with the patient (3) The anesthesiologist is speaking with the patient (4) Miscellaneous (uncooperative patient, jewelry issue, etc.) (5) Consent is wrong, incomplete, missing (6) Paperwork is missing (7) Patient is not marked (8) Bathroom needs (9) Procedure booked is incomplete (10) Pre-op medication administration is delayed.

There was a significant improvement in on time start after this initiative began. We concluded, in order to achieve our goal, surgeons need to arrive no later than 7:00am, anesthesiologists need to arrive no later than 7:10am, patients need to be admitted no later than 7:00am, and patients must leave pre-op area no later than 7:25am. Implications for our practice include continue to collect data and analyze data monthly, create a visual on-time start board to show our progress.