

A COLLABORATIVE TEAM APPROACH TO IMPROVE PATIENT THROUGHPUT

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Dysfunctional preoperative patient flow was an identified problem. There were no designated staff assignments creating a lack of accountability, inefficiency, and a chaotic patient care environment creating delays. Lack of communication between perianesthesia nurses, operating room nurses, and anesthesia providers inhibited the best possible outcomes for patients. Our objective was to create an environment of accountability, effective communication, efficiency, and an atmosphere of professional, competent care.

An interdisciplinary committee was developed with representation from all levels of perianesthesia and perioperative staff and management. The focus was on creating a team approach between the perianesthesia staff and operating room team. Patient flow in preop was redesigned to be aligned with specific operating rooms and each perianesthesia RN was assigned specific operating rooms. The RN was responsible to ensure the patients assigned to those operating rooms were prepared for surgery and to maintain communication with the OR team. The culture of safety was further enhanced as hand off report at the patient's bedside from the assigned perianesthesia nurse to the patient's OR team allowed for improved communication.

Receiving input from all levels of perianesthesia and perioperative staff fostered increased staff acceptance of the new patient flow. The cohesive team approach was embraced as a positive change in the entire unit.

A collaborative team approach is imperative in furthering perianesthesia nursing. Identifying the dysfunctional patient flow, using input from all levels of staff, and implementing the interventions resulted in accountability, efficiency, calmer environments, improved patient satisfaction, and improved communication between all staff members.