

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S A SUPER CHARGE NURSE: IMPROVING SURGICAL FLOW THROUGH THE USE OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

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Background: Due to high surgical volume in an academic medical center, there were continuous challenges with patient flow to and from the Operating rooms (OR). The need for a more accurate view of volume throughout different surgical suites created a need for a coordinator of flow along with innovative technology to assist in assessment of volume and quick decision making regarding access and placement of patients.

Objectives: : Utilize RN coordinators to optimize patient flow using technology as an aid for surgical case placement as well as patient placement across multiple perioperative areas within the adult enterprise.

Process of Implementation: A multidisciplinary team worked to devise the Super Charge Nurse role to aid in placement of patients in preoperative and postoperative areas with timely access to enhance surgical flow. There was an additional Charge Nurse role developed that worked with the Super Charge RNs at the OR board for case placement. Several technologies were also incorporated into these roles that provided an immediate view of the operative arena and patient location giving precise information for decision making.

Statement of Successful Practice: Patient throughput has been greatly improved demonstrated by efficiency data and increased volume. New technologies included a patient white board showing location and phases of care, a Vigilant camera tool for views into the Operating suite, and portable I-Pads that assist with flow and operational efficiency in the decision making process.

Implications: Efficient patient flow reduces cost and waste, improves the spectrum of satisfaction, and enhances quality.