

CLOSING THE GAP FROM THE OFFICE TO THE OR

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The skills required to manage the perioperative arena and to keep patients safe and running on time involve collaborative work among departments prior to the patients' arrival at the hospital. The pre-admission testing (PAT) and Same Day Surgery (SDS) departments at a 550-bed community hospital in southwest Ohio collaborated to accomplish this goal with relative ease and little disruption.

In February, a team began to initiate a quality improvement project to improve processes in PAT and SDS to increase the percent of first cases started on time. By focusing on the first case of the day, improvements in overall SDS patient flow should result.

The three areas identified for success were:

1. Number of STAT testing completed in SDS the morning of surgery
2. Incomplete charts from PAT to SDS
3. Pre-op orders received from the surgeon within 48 hours of the case being booked

The PAT Department created new criteria for the patient assessment during booking. As a result, additional patients had PAT testing prior to the day of surgery for lab draws, EKG's and to obtain history and physicals.

The PAT Department assigned a liaison nurse to educate the surgeons' office managers and discuss expectations. To keep momentum moving forward, there was a presentation given to the OR Governance Committee consisting of Surgeons, Hospital Directors and Managers. The implications for advancing the practice of perianesthesia nursing include collaboration to ensure the safety of patients with a timely, seamless process through the perioperative experience.