

PRE-PROCEDURAL CHECKLIST: IS YOUR PATIENT READY FOR SURGERY?

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Patients were not optimized for surgery due to lack of an integrated pre-procedural checklist. Current inpatient checklists were inadequate and not being completed by inpatient nurses. Several patient safety issues were identified from inadequate patient preparation. Surgical delays resulted from the inadequate pre-surgical preparation. Interdisciplinary collaboration was lacking, so an interdisciplinary team was assembled to revise current pre-procedural checklist to assure patients were ready for surgery.

The team identified that completed pre-procedural checklists addressing important aspects of patient preparation would enhance patient safety. The new process would involve inpatient and preop nurses and anesthesia providers.

The core team met with inpatient educators and managers to identify items to include on an abbreviated inpatient checklist that would flow into the expanded preop holding checklist. The items included would address issues of abnormal labs, consents, preps, NPO status, H&P, and DVT prophylaxis. Finalized checklist was approved by system representatives and implemented using the current electronic health record following unit level nursing education. Perianesthesia staff performed daily audits of inpatient checklist to identify noncompliance.

Following implementation of the checklist multiple incidences of abnormal labs were identified and appropriate therapy initiated prior to patient arrival in preop. Use of the checklist provides information to preop nurses which enhance patient safety in preventing complications. The checklist helps new inpatient and perianesthesia nurses identify specific items that can negatively affect patient outcomes if not addressed preoperatively. Preventing surgical delays has been a byproduct of preoperative optimization.