CLINCAL WITH ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTATION ORIENTATION IN THE PREP/PACU SETTING: HOW CAN WE MAKE IT WORK EFFICIENTLY TOGETHER?

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Electronic documentation in the Prep/PACU setting at JHH rolled out in June 2011. The need for more time to finish electronic documentation compared to paper charting affected the overall efficiency of the staff and the workflow processes and throughput of the unit.

Another challenge brought about by the electronic documentation is incorporating it with clinical orientation for new staff. Preceptors were faced with a new challenge; orienting clinical routines and simultaneously teaching electronic documentation and navigating the system. The orientation process led to preceptor and orientee frustrations, decrease in efficiency and throughput of the orientee and eventually prolonging the orientation.

The Clinical Documentation Committee responded to the need to change the orientation process. "Prepare your soldier first before the battle" was conceptualized. A revised documentation guidelines, quick reference tool, competency checklist and practice scenarios were developed. Aside from the 8 hour class provided by Central Nursing, 6-10 hours are allotted in teaching unit specific electronic documentation by an assigned coach and is done prior to starting the orientee in the clinical setting. The preceptor is mainly focused now on clinical routines and care. Assessments are done on a regular basis and the need for further teaching on electronic documentation is determined.

The innovative approach in incorporating electronic documentation with clinical orientation led to increase in preceptor and orientee satisfaction and morale. Collaboration between two unit experts led to decreased in length of orientation. Mastery of both clinical routines and electronic documentation is attained prior to end of orientation.