

ADAPTATION OF A SHORT SHIFT IN A FREE STANDING AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER

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Background

The Pre and Post Operative Care Units at the Kona Ambulatory Surgery Center provide medical care to surgical patients. One registered nurse is assigned to the pre operative area and one to the post operative area. During our busy morning of preparation prior to general anesthesia surgery and recovery after our two nurses were kept busy with the patients of the day. These two registered nurses were also responsible for all the pre operative calls to process the patients for the next day and the follow up calls from the previous day surgery. The calls were not getting done in a timely manner due to acute patient care responsibilities. A third registered nurse was needed for a shorter shift to relieve the PACU and complete the phone calls.

Objectives

Our goal was to call patient's 24-48 hours prior to their surgical procedures and to complete the post operative calls within 24 hours of surgery.

Process Implementation

1. Our pre operative nurse arrived at 6:30 am to start the day admissions and was backed up by the operating room staff registered nurse.
2. Our post operative nurse arrived at 7:30 am to start the recovery of the surgical patient.
3. A third registered nurse arrived at 10:00 am to give staff breaks and complete the pre and post operative calls.
4. The third registered nurse retained to option the stay later than 3pm if needed depending on our surgical case load.

Positive Outcomes

1. We are complying with ASPAN standards by having two licensed medical personnel familiar with the pre and post operative process.
2. Our registered nurses are ACLS certified
3. Our third registered nurse alleviated staff and patient stress by processing our customers efficiently through the surgical experience at the Kona Ambulatory Surgery Center.

Evaluation

Our third registered nurse short shift (10 am-3pm) at the Kona Ambulatory Surgery Center is still in its infancy. We hope to continue with the flexible shift to enable an efficient process of the surgical patient.