

IMPACTING NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY GOAL NUMBER SEVEN TO ASSURE DOCUMENTATION OF SURGICAL SITE INFECTION PREVENTION TEACHING

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Medical record audits in the Perianesthesia Department revealed inadequate documentation of patient teaching related to surgical site infection (SSI) prevention, with a compliance rate of less than 50%. If the patient teaching is not documented, the teaching is considered not done. A goal was set to increase documentation of patient teaching to 90%. Re-education on the impact of SSIs and the correct method for documenting patient teaching was provided to nurses in the seven units of the department. Pre and post-tests were administered to reinforce the importance of SSI patient teaching. Signs about SSI prevention were posted in every patient bay in the preoperative areas to reinforce the importance of the teaching and to remind the staff to document their effort. A new electronic medical record (EMR) was implemented in the department, enabling easier documentation of patient teaching about SSI prevention. These interventions resulted in a marked improvement in nurse's post-test knowledge about SSI prevention and an increased compliance in documentation (97%).