

O.R. TO PEDIATRIC PACU HANDOFF

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

During unit based clinical practice meeting nurses identified the lack of appropriate exchange of pertinent patient information at handoff from the O.R. "Miscommunication was reported by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations to be responsible for up to 85% of hospital sentinel events," (Boat and Spaeth, 2013). A breakdown of communication can lead to adverse patient outcomes including: decrease quality of care, increase length of stay, injury or harm, which may lead to overall increase cost of care.

OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:

Will a handoff tool improve interdisciplinary communication? What could we do to improve handoff communication? What pieces of information are we missing and how could we improve handoff practice to provide best quality care, increase patient safety, and efficiency?

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

A literature review was performed and an analysis of various tools from several hospitals. It was concluded that an individualized tool would be developed to fit the needs of a patient population. Approval was obtained by unit leadership for the handoff tool. The handoff tool was designed to contain the relevant facts and actions to improve communication. Through interdisciplinary collaboration with anesthesia, surgical, and nursing leadership, education on the handoff tool was started. A pre and post data collection questionnaire was implemented to evaluate outcomes of the tools implementation.

STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:

The group received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback and enthusiasm to begin the project. The ultimate goal to improve quality patient transfer of care to the pediatric PACU was achieved. Using a standardized tool at handoff leads to fluency in the transition of patient care.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING:

Effective communication to the PACU is an integral aspect of patient care improving efficiency, safety, and quality of overall care delivered. Through heightened awareness an effective strategy can promote a culture of safety and best practice. With increased acuity, fast turnover of care, and high volumes handover tools improve communication promoting best practice.