

USE OF THE PDSA MODEL WITH THE ERAS CHECKLIST

Team Leader: Lauren Wolf, RN, CPN

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Team Members: Elizabeth Doane, RN, MSN, Sarah Thompson, RN, MSN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Traditional ways of providing patient care are being reexamined throughout the country. Hospital clinicians are challenged to implement cost effective programs that improve patient care. The Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) protocol is a new evidenced based quality initiative associated with better outcomes for colorectal surgical patients. A BWH multi-professional team of clinicians across the continuum of care convened to implement this program.

The complex workflow of patient transition through the perioperative experience presents challenges with new changes in patient care. Effective multi-professional communication was recognized as important to the success of the pathway.

OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:

Implementation of the ERAS checklist will increase communication. Use of the Plan Do Study Act (PDSA) Quality Improvement Model will improve adherence of the ERAS protocols.

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

Process, communication flow, and educational materials were developed by the ERAS team. Nursing created a checklist tool to guide each discipline implementing the ERAS pathway at BWH. The ERAS Checklist was used in a patient pilot program (n=40) over a three month period. The PDSA Model for improvement was utilized to refine changes needed for adherence with the protocols in each of the phases of care.

STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:

Modifications to the checklist were implemented after periodic review of problems and unexpected observations were noted from the ERAS Checklist data. The ERAS checklist is a vital component to the success and sustainability of the ERAS protocol. Successfully moving theory to practice requires interdisciplinary teams to convene and evaluate progress to promote improved patient care.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING:

Implementing the ERAS Quality Improvement protocol to enhance better patient outcomes at a large teaching hospital requires a multi-professional team to convene and evaluate progress. Use of the PDSA Improvement Model was a vital component to adherence of the ERAS program guidelines.