

THE CONSTRUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INNOVATIONAL TWENTY-THREE HOUR EXTENDED STAY OBSERVATIONAL UNIT

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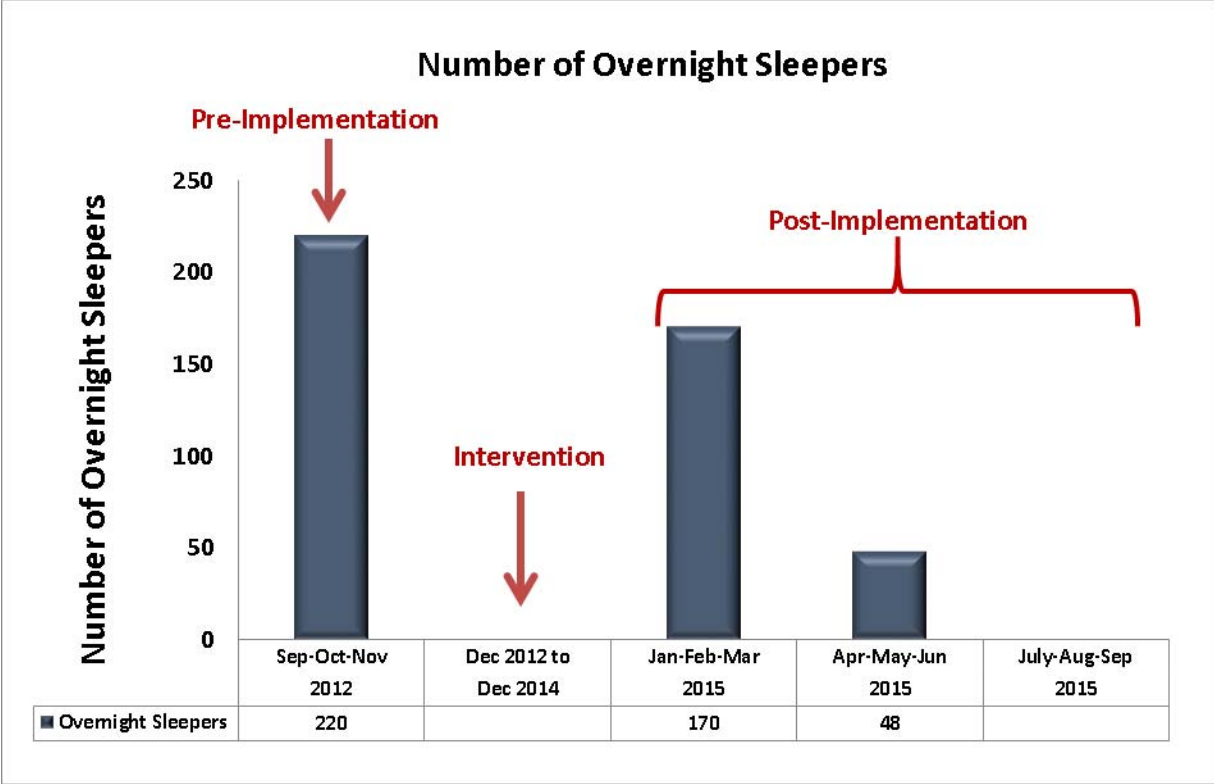
Background Information: The PACU experienced an increase in 23 hour extended stay recovery patients, originally admitted to an inpatient bed. CMS insurance regulations led to the 23 hour post-surgical patients staying in the PACU, which affected patient flow through Periop. Patients overnight in the PACU resulted in decreased patient satisfaction, negatively affected patient flow through the operating room and posed staffing challenges in the PACU.

Objectives of Project: The overall goal of our group was to create a unit to care for this specific patient population in an effort to improve patient flow through Periop, increase patient satisfaction, and decrease the amount of overnights in PACU.

Process of Implementation:

- **6/2012-** Creation of Ground White 23 hour extended stay unit for ESRA patients
- **6/2012-7/2012-** Construction meetings focused on itemized planning with a goal to open the unit in November 2012.
- **7/2012-** Creation of narrative for the innovative unit and Scope Shell
- **8/2012-** Training of PACU/SFAS staff for new unit
 - Technology meetings ie. computer hardware and software
 - Emergency route for Codes/Rapid responses developed
 - Final Scope of Service Developed
 - Medication carts and pharmacy planning
 - Exception needing request for 2nd stage recovery unit due to there not being a definition of this type of unit in the state of PA
 - Equipment list
 - Planning of Education
 - Materials Management planning

Statement of Successful Practice: The opening of Ground White drastically decreased the overnights in the PACU by 80% over a three year time period. This decreased has led to improved patient flow through perioperative services, interventional radiology and EPS/Cath lab. In addition Ground White has also improved patient and family satisfaction for the 23 hour extended stay patient population.



Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: This new innovational unit has a great impact on increasing patient flow and decreasing overnight patients in the PACU. The new CMS guidelines and the two midnight rule will lead to more hospitals creating a 23 hour extended stay unit in their perioperative departments further advancing the practice of perianesthesia nursing.