

PROCESS CHANGE: INCREASING EFFICIENCY AND COMPLIANCE IN SCD APPLICATION IN PACU

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Background Information: Venous thromboembolisms (VTE)s can be detrimental to the surgical patient in their recovery process and even life threatening. One of the ways the perianesthesia nurse can help prevent health care related complications of VTE is to comply with application of sequential compression devices (SCD)s in the immediate post-op period. Our previous process was to have the equipment personnel replenish each bay in the PACU during nightshift, then the extra machines were placed on the supply shelf. Nurses were unable to be compliant due to the lack of equipment and availability throughout the day. Documentation was poor regarding application and compliance of SCDs. A new process and standard work was created to help with compliance, application, and documentation of SCDs in the post-operative area.

Objectives of Project:

- To improve equipment availability
- Compliance and documentation of application of device
- Standardizing the process by applying the equipment immediately in PACU
- Permanent par of SCD machines in the PACU

Process of Implementation: Physicians, patient safety and quality specialists, pharmacists, advanced practice nurses (APN)s, equipment providers, managers, and educators convened at the monthly VTE committee meeting. The team identified a lack of equipment availability and an inability to reallocate supplies in a timely manner. A new process was developed to facilitate a permanent supply of SCD equipment in the PACU. The Postoperative area will have a par level of **50** SCD machines at all times. This process has been developed in order to have access to SCD machines at all times and help with the decrease in DVTs at BJH. Education was provided to all staff regarding cleaning, applying, and documenting. The machine would be cleaned between each patient allowing the manufacturers allotted time to dry.

Statement of Successful Practice: The staff has had positive feedback regarding availability of SCD machines for each patient and being able to be compliant in a timely manner to apply the SCD. Documentation compliance was validated by audits during implementation with the physician order.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: A new standardized process can improve patient outcomes by applying SCDs sooner to decrease the possibility of postsurgical VTEs.