

PREPARING YOUR INPATIENT FOR SURGERY

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Background Information: A need was identified in the surgical holding area to better prepare our inpatients for surgery/procedures. When patients arrive to the holding area unprepared, procedures are delayed and schedules are impacted. Unprepared patients result in delays for the OR which can impact the schedule for the entire day. In addition, delays can increase stress for the surgical patient, cause potential patient safety concerns, and tie up valuable nursing time on the floor, in the holding area, and in the OR.

Objectives of Project: To educate patients and to increase the number of patients that arrive to the holding area prepared for their surgery/procedures.

Process of Implementation: A patient education handout was developed with the goal of involving patients in their own preparation for surgery. Included on the handout are explanations for NPO status and removal of jewelry, contact lenses, dentures and clothing. The tool was presented to the Virtua Voorhees Advanced Nurse Clinician (ANC) Council meeting and approval was obtained from three ANCs from medical/surgical units to trial the educational tool. In-services were provided for clinical staff on these three units regarding distributing the handout to surgical patients.

Data was collected regarding whether or not the educational tool was given to the patient and if the patient arrived prepared for the OR.

Statement of Successful Practice: Data was collected over three months on 105 patients arriving to the holding area from the three involved units. Of the 46% of patients who had received the handout, 98% arrived prepared, which was a drastic improvement. We then re-educated staff, which resulted in an increased number of patients that received the handout the following month.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Patients stated they felt the tool to be very informative and helped them to understand what they could do to prepare for their surgery/procedure.

With an increased number of patients arriving prepared, it decreased the amount of issues to be addressed in the holding area and, therefore, decreased OR delays.