

Objective of Project:

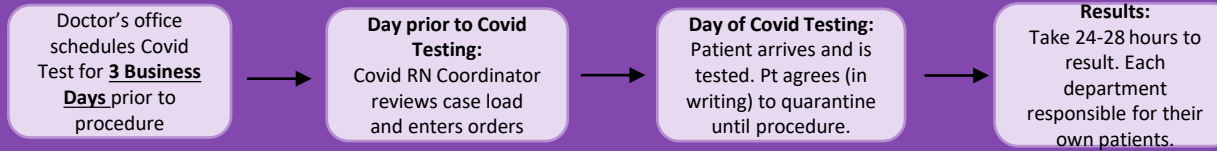
- To find a way to get surgeries (in particular), but also healthcare back into operational status again.
- To find a way to create a safe environment for not only the patients but the staff. Ease the fear that is associated with spreading/catching Covid-19.

“Over 10,000 Served” – Covid Drive Thru

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Work Flow for Testing



Service Lines Tested:

Kennestone Main OR – Kennestone Outpatient Surgery Center – Kennestone Urology Procedural – GI/Bronch Lab – Cath/EP Lab – Sleep Studies – PFTs – Vascular Institute – Cardio Vascular OR – Procedural Imaging – Women’s Imaging – East Cobb Surgery Center - Windy Hill Hospital – Cardio Vascular Medicine Dx Testing – Employee Testing

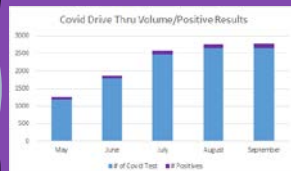


Background Information:

The Atlanta area, like the rest of the world, was paralyzed with fear and the unknown of Covid-19. Nothing like the Covid-19 pandemic had ever been seen or experienced in this lifetime. Schools, restaurants, businesses, etc., life as we know it closed with fear of catching or spreading Covid-19. Healthcare, including surgeries, were not immune and were frozen. This put not only the health of patients in jeopardy (as delay in care occurred and/or complications) but put the healthcare system in financial limbo.

Process of Implementation:

In May 2020, with little than two weeks notice, we created a workflow process for a “Drive Thru” Covid-19 test site for elective surgical patients. All patients having elective surgery would be required to undergo Covid-19 nasal swab testing to determine if they were Covid-19 negative/positive, prior to their surgeries. All positive patients’ cases were postponed-stopping Covid-19 from entering the Pre-OP, OR, and PACU areas. As time progressed and the drive thru showed it successes, we have expanded our service to over fifteen different service lines throughout our health system.



Problem/Issue	Action/Solution	Owner	Due Date
Scheduling/notification of appointment communicated to patient	Covid testing appointments scheduled the same time as surgery. Patient notified of dates/times concurrently.	Office schedulers/Posting/Amanda/Nichole	Complete
Relaying location of testing to patients with clear understanding	Detailed maps marked with arrows showing location and direction of traffic flow distributed to patients. Increased signage placed around testing site.	Amanda/Nichole/Offices/PATT	Complete
Types of covid testing changing due to increase in volume of testing	Confirmed process of using each test and education staff on procedure.	Amanda/Nichole	Currently complete
Missed information on patients in varying departments due to schedule/leave/variety of sources of information	A group email was created for all leaders of participating service lines in which information is relayed in a timely manner.	Amanda/Nichole/Department Leaders	Complete-updated as necessary
Failed testing such as "leaked in transit" or specimens "not received" by lab or outside testing service	Coordination between drive thru coordinators, Lab leadership and departments relaying information and making arrangements to retest patients prior to procedure/surgery.	Amanda/Nichole/Lab Leadership/Department Leaders	Complete
Continued staffing for Covid-19 drive thru	Coordination between drive thru coordinators, department leaders and charge RNs to help staffing based on department patient census	Amanda/Nichole/Department Leaders/Department Charge RNs	Complete
Weather variations for staff due to testing being completed outside	During the heat of summer, staff alternated responsibilities so they could rotate out of testing so they could take off PPE to cool down. During winter, leadership had several heaters installed inside and outside	Amanda/Nichole/Leadership/Drive thru staff	Complete

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Peri-anesthesia Nursing:

Peri-anesthesia nurses were the core team to identify, create and execute the Covid-19 drive thru. It was the nursing staff the hospital leadership, staff and providers looked to for help to reopen surgeries (and be there for our patients needs). This experience has created more autonomy as well as respect from other disciplines within our hospital. We are the frontline warriors!

Statement of Successful Practice:

The Covid Drive Thru was almost an overnight success. Prior to its implementation, our surgeries at Kennestone were down over 30% during April 2020 (compared to April 2019). After six weeks of introducing the drive thru, the number of surgeries was back to our normal volume (per 2019). Because of the success of surgeries being back in full operation, over thirteen other service lines (plus employees) began to come to the drive thru as well. As of October 2020, we have tested over 10,000 patients/employees in the Covid-19 drive thru.

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