

Effective Collaboration Towards Positive Perioperative Outcomes for the Cardiac Surgery Patient in the Preoperative Phase of Care

Team Leader: Mary Perry BSN RN CAPA

University of Maryland Medical Center – Downtown Campus, Baltimore, Maryland

Team Member: Maridulce Belen S Fortuno MS/MSN BSN RN CAPA

Background Information: The pre-procedure clinic in our academic medical center provides preoperative evaluation and surgical preparation for patients. Nurses in the clinic care for complex patients and support multiple surgical specialties, including cardiac surgery. Workflows related to this subset of patients, specifically identification of blood type and antibodies, presented a particular challenge for the clinic and cardiac surgery patients were not always ready for the operating room (OR) on the day of surgery. There was a negative impact on on-time first case starts (OTFS), cardiac surgery staff utilization, and, most importantly, patient satisfaction when delays occurred the morning of surgery due to positive antibodies and the need for additional work up to prepare blood availability for surgery.

Objectives of Project: The project aims were to: 1) provide an efficient outpatient pre-operative 30-day blood band process in the pre-procedure evaluation clinic for the adult cardiac surgery patient as partners in care with the cardiac surgery service and 2) establish a mutually beneficial work flow between perioperative services and cardiac surgery staff to minimize downstream OR delays.

Process of Implementation: A consultative group guided perioperative services leadership to improve internal processes. Collaboration with the cardiac surgery clinic and patient administrative services staff was crucial for project success. The project team developed and implemented a cardiac surgery internal workflow for preoperative management and the team revised outpatient registration workflows. All patient care technicians in the pre-procedure evaluation clinic received education for preoperative 30-day blood band lab procurement and associated form storage.

Statement of Successful Practice: This poster illustrates that there had been an upward trend in meeting the divisional OTFS goal of $\geq 75\%$. As of 10/31/19, $\geq 80\%$ of cardiac surgery first cases started on time as compared to only 55% of cases started on time in July 2019.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Perianesthesia nurses can improve the care of their patients by employing performance innovation concepts to break down barriers to ensure multidisciplinary success. By engaging multiple perioperative disciplines, providers, and members of the patient care delivery team, both patient care and organizational goals can be met. The option of 30 day blood bands is expanding to other surgical services to avoid delays the morning of surgery.