

## **A Quality Improvement Initiative to Improve the Pediatric Surgical Pathway at an Academic Medical Center**

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**Background Information:** It was discovered that approval and oversight of adolescent surgical cases in our adult hospital setting was being performed inconsistently and lacked standardization. In order to optimize our processes, and ensure consistent and safe pediatric patient care that aligned with hospital policies, a formal hospital-based interdisciplinary workgroup was formed.

**Objectives of Project:** The goal of this group was to analyze the current state surrounding adolescent surgery at an academic medical center, improve the processes and close the gaps in scope.

**Process of Implementation:** The goal of this group was to analyze the current state surrounding adolescent surgery at an academic medical center, improve the processes and close the gaps in scope. The team also revised the adolescent surgery policy in order to define the scope of care for patients at Pennsylvania Hospital. Recurrent "huddles" were established with the workgroup to clinically review upcoming pediatric cases with the multidisciplinary team. The team included a representative from disciplines such as: nursing, therapy services, social work/case management, pharmacy and APPs/physicians. The group has found much success with these "huddles" and it has allowed for many successful pediatric surgeries at the hospital.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** Since December 2021, over 20 patients have been formally reviewed and discussed. This provided the framework for structured communications and engagement with all parties involved. Technology was leverage to standardize the distribution of upcoming patients and pertinent medical considerations. An emergency plan was created by the team to serve as a guide for emergent pediatric transfers to a nearby pediatric hospital.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** These meetings gave each stakeholder the opportunity to weigh in on any potential implications related to their discipline, and talk through strategies to avoid potential patient safety issues. The efforts of this work have helped to circumvent any potential patient progression/safety issues and facilitated a better overall experience for the pediatric patient and their family/support persons.